

VOL. 9, NO. 29 February 13, 1982 60¢

Gay Community News

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES BIPAD: 65498



Amazon Trekking in Nepal

Making Love Reviewed

Nat'l Rights Bill Hearing: Where Was the Right?

By Jil Clark

WASHINGTON — Legislators held the first hearing at the capitol on the National Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill last week and leaders from all but one of the right-wing organizations invited to speak boycotted the event.

Gary Jarmin, legislative director of Christian Voice, said he would not attend the hearing on House Bill 1454 because, he wrote, it is "nothing more than a media event to cajole the American people into believing homosexuals are a discriminated minority genuinely deserving of a special protected status under the law. We will not personally participate in this sham and thus give this pro-immorality hearing any more credit that it deserves."

Steve Endean of the Gay Rights National Lobby (GRNL) said the January 27 hearing was a success in that it furthered the "process of educating people about gay rights." He added that the point of the hearing was not to bring about a vote on the bill by members of the House Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities, part of the Education and Labor Committee.

"It wouldn't make sense to try to get it to the House floor now," Endean said. "It could be eight to ten years before that happens. . . But it will pass. All the long-term signs are right."

HR 1454 is essentially an amendment to the Civil Rights Act of 1964; it proposes that the words "sexual or affectional pre-

ference" be inserted following the word "color" wherever it appears in that law.

Thus HR 1454 would proscribe discrimination against lesbians and gay males in the use of public facilities, in access to jobs, rents, financing, brokerage services, in the purchase of real estate and in other areas.

The bill has 52 sponsors in the House, one of whom is Augustus Hawkins of California, chairperson of the subcommittee.

Hawkins, the bill's chief sponsor Ted Weiss of New York City, and Millicent Fenwick of New Jersey, who opposes the bill on the grounds that it protects gay teachers, were the only subcommittee members present for the hearing.

The eight persons who testified in favor of the bill were Jean O'Leary, executive director of Gay Rights Advocates in San Francisco; Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts; Representative Bill Green of New York; Jane Wells-Schooley, vice-president of the National Organization for Women; Craig Christianson, dean of the Syracuse University Law School; Sergeant Charles Cochran of the New York City Police Department; Dr. Martin Weinburg, director of the Sex Research Center in Bloomington, Indiana; and Dr. Avery Post of the United Church of Christ.

Connaught Marshner of the National Pro-Family Coalition testified that the bill would promote an unacceptable lifestyle.

The issue is one of privacy, according to the bill's supporters and enemies alike. "Mere sexual orientation is not the issue," said Marshner. "Overt sexual behavior is the issue. . . . What we are advocating is that our right to privacy be respected: that the homosexual lifestyle not be flaunted in our neighborhood and shouted from the housetops. The public has a right to be protected from the promotion and glamorization of something that is by its nature antithetical to the social order."

Green testified that "there is a limit as to how far a society or its members can reach into the private lives of people. . . . For anyone to be able to deny work, shelter or other basic needs to another because of differences of opinion as to sexual preferences is, frankly, outrageous."

Cochrane testified that a person can be gay and "a good cop" at the same time.

Tsongas, the chief sponsor of the Senate's Fair Employment Bill, which would protect lesbians and gay men from job discrimination, told the subcommittee that the country literally cannot afford to discriminate against lesbians

and gay men. "At a time when the economy is facing a grave adversity, any job discrimination having nothing to do with ability or performance is a self-inflicted handicap to our overall economic strength," said Tsongas.

Tsongas cited a study done by the National Institute of Mental Health which concluded that 16

fight the bill, saying it sought to "force every local school to hire practicing homosexuals as teachers, coaches and counselors; force every Christian church to hire a homosexual minister or other church employee; force every family business to hire sodomites. . . ."

Christianson told the sub-



Steve Endean.

Susan Fleischmann.

percent of lesbians and gay men in the work force in the U.S. have employment problems related to their sexual orientation. "Without legal protection, such a person's livelihood is jeopardized for a lifetime. This causes undue mental anxiety and robs the community of that individual's talents and productivity. The result is wasteful and unjust."

Although HR 1454 does not mandate an affirmative action program for lesbians and gay men, many leaders of the New Right seem to have given it that interpretation. In a mass mailing last fall, organizers of the Christian Voice Moral Government Fund solicited contributions to

committee that these charges are "preposterous." Instead, he said,

the bill would alleviate "the pain and suffering of countless homosexuals who have lost homes and jobs and yet have never proclaimed their sexuality." Christianson, who did not identify himself as gay, implied in his testimony that he had experienced this discrimination.

Endean told GCN that lesbians and gay men do not need affirmative action in hiring. "The problems for lesbians and gay men is not that we have systematically been denied jobs. The problem is, once we have jobs, will we be

Continued on Page 6

Forum on Gentrification Tackles Gay Responsibility

By Larry Goldsmith

BOSTON — Activists and residents from a variety of Boston area communities gathered in the Old West Church on January 17 to discuss gentrification and the responsibilities of gay people at a forum sponsored jointly by Black and White Men Together and the Metropolitan Community Church.

Activist Matt Thall of the Fenway Community Development Corporation began the discussion by proposing a working definition of "gentrification" as "the transformation of a previously low income neighborhood by upper income people who move in and restore the housing and basically make it a community for the gentry."

Gentrification began in Boston, according to Thall, in the South End in the early 1960s and eventually spread to communities such as Bay Village, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill and Charlestown.

"Gay people have often played some role in this process," Thall added, noting that in the mid-1970s social scientists began to pay particular attention to gentrification as a phenomenon in the gay community.

In Boston's South End, for example, gay men in significant numbers have purchased or rented aging dilapidated buildings and renovated them to provide cheap and comfortable housing. The new residents pride themselves on the fact that they are helping to reclaim historical parts of the city which have fallen into neglect and disrepair.

But there is more to the story. "The neighborhoods take off,"

Thall told the gathering. "More people are attracted in. The neighborhood becomes a little safer. That's when the real estate speculators start to come in as well."

Local activist Armando Gaitan expressed a similar sentiment. "The other side of [gentrification] is dislocation and displacement," Gaitan explained. "At the same time that all this is going on we are having problems with facilities for people who are homeless. . . . We have in this community no gay shelter short of sending a gay person to the Pine Street Inn. . . . [where] many of them would be endangered, many would be entirely out of place."

Viviana Muñoz, a self-described "heterosexual woman who lives in the South End. . . . [and is] being evicted by a white landlord who is gay," told the forum that "what we're talking about at this meeting today is not gay people or black people or Latino people. What we are talking about is people's basic right to housing."

"Some people have shelter because they need homes," Muñoz continued. "Some people have shelter because they need an investment. . . . What we have to think about is that poor and working class people are getting screwed."

"If gays have a responsibility, it doesn't come out of their gayness, it comes out of their humanness. . . . I don't like to hear about housing for a specific group because it divides us."

Muñoz blamed "the city, the

state, and the entire economic system that's doing this."

"How do we fight together so that they don't divide us? I think that is what we have to talk about."

New York Cops Arrest Two For 'Execution' of Gay Men

By Bob Nelson

NEW YORK — The second suspect in the murders of two gay men on West 10th Street in Manhattan has turned himself in voluntarily. Detective Kenneth Bernhardt told GCN that "he's turning himself in through his lawyer," but that no other information about the suspect was being released.

Another man, Wilfredo Ramos, has already been charged with two counts each of felony murder (committed in the course of a felony) and intentional murder in the deaths of Gregory Becket, 29, and Russell Rookstool, 27, on January 17 in an apartment on West 10th Street.

Ramos is the brother of the building's newly-hired superintendent, Michael Alicea.

Apparently Becket was awakened at 4:00 a.m. by men demanding entry to fix a leaking water pipe. On entering, the men, whom Becket evidently knew, allegedly brandished a sawed-off shotgun and fired it at Rookstool, Becket's friend, who was asleep on a roll-out bed. Shouting abuses and homophobic invectives, the men then supposedly shot Becket in the arm and stabbed him in the face

and neck.

Unbeknownst to the attackers, however, Becket had another house guest, a friend from Texas who witnessed the entire incident from a loft bed in an adjoining room. As the attack proceeded, the Texan, whose name police refused to divulge, found Becket's starter's pistol and fired it at the attackers as he escaped out the door. Clad only in underwear, he ran across the street to the Ninth Circle, a popular gay bar, where a bartender called for help.

Police did not have far to look for one of the alleged assailants, for Ramos returned to the scene about a half hour later to watch the commotion from across the street. "It was pretty cynical," said Detective Bernhardt. "Something like a detective story."

Police followed Ramos to a rendezvous with two other men, also believed to be brothers of Alicea, in a car on Christopher Street. "They probably all arrived in the car together," said Bernhardt. "The other two guys must have known that Ramos was off to do his business, but we haven't been able to connect them to the incident directly."

Rookstool died immediately,

but Becket was taken to Saint Vincent's Hospital three blocks away, where he identified Ramos as one of his assailants before dying. The other two occupants of the car were released, and police said they were searching for a fourth man, who has since been apprehended.

Possibly the most difficult unresolved question in the case is the motive for the attack. Brett Averill, editor of the New York *Native*, detailed some of the possibilities in a recent article. Becket was not on good terms with his landlord and an unexplained \$5,000 was found on the persons of Ramos and his two cohorts. "Murder for hire" is thus one possibility, although it seems unlikely that even the most rapacious New York landlord would go that far. Straight press reports emphasize the fact that Becket allegedly dealt drugs to fund his graduate education, and that the attackers were robbers gone berserk. This is the line of inquiry the police are following, although no valuables appear to have been taken. From his own investigations, however, Averill believes that homophobia was the sole motive.

News Notes

shrinking doubts

NEW YORK — Although the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of illnesses in 1973, a major professional symposium on the issue revealed that there is still considerable disagreement about gayness among psychiatrists, according to the *New York Times*.

The debate, which emerged at a two-day meeting at New York Medical College two weeks ago centered around such questions as whether homosexuality is inherently abnormal, as more classical psychiatrists believe, or a normal variant of human sexual behavior, as more sociologically oriented doctors maintain, and whether gay people should be converted to heterosexuality through therapy or assisted in becoming more comfortable with a gay identity.

According to the *Times*, however, "whatever their views, nearly all denounced homophobia . . . and prejudice, which they said pervades the psychiatric profession as well as society at large." Dr. Judd Marmor of Los Angeles noted that gay physicians are still denied residency training in psychiatry by most hospitals, and that no psychoanalytic institute would knowingly accept a gay trainee.

Dr. Marmor also told the conference, "We must stop thinking of homosexuality as a singular phenomenon. It is diverse in character, various in its manifestations and has multiple roots — genetic, hormonal, psychodynamic, and sociodynamic." The *Times* noted that the "sickness" or "arrested development" model of gayness "seems to be rapidly yielding to an ever-growing accumulation of evidence and opinion that sees same-sex attraction as biologically normal behavior with complex and varied origins."

The symposium also noted that research into the origins of homosexuality, which have long been limited to studies of gay people who sought psychotherapy, "is now focused on nonpatient homosexuals with diverse lifestyles," with a consequent awareness that "homosexuals, as a group, are not mentally less healthy than heterosexuals and that the same bad parent-child relationships that are characteristic of many unhappy homosexuals are also found among unhappy heterosexuals," according to the *Times*.

Dr. Marshall Forstein of Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital, who is gay, told the *Times* that it is "a miracle" that any gay people become stable and happy individuals, since they grow up lacking social validation of what they are. "Unlike women and blacks who can at least identify with one another, gays have no one to counteract the negative societal assault on their egos. . . . It's no wonder that at times of stress gay people are much more prone to severe depression," Forstein added.

Even Dr. Irving Bieber, one of the foremost spokespersons for the school of thought which sees gayness as a sickness, said that, "The therapist should have no stake in the sexual outcome of a patient being treated. The therapeutic goal is to make people as comfortable as can be with whatever they are sexually."

gay guides get onto the shelves

For the first time a gay guide book has been recommended for use in public libraries.

Places of Interest, a gay map/guide of the U.S. and Canada, and *Places of Interest to Women*, were described as "amazingly thorough" and "recommended for all but the smallest libraries" by *Library Journal*, whose reviews heavily influence the acquisitions made by libraries around the country.

Since the review appeared, orders have been arriving daily from a variety of libraries, ranging from Radcliffe College's to Dayton, Ohio's.

rats yes, gays no

SAN FRANCISCO — A court battle appears imminent between the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) and the Board of Directors of the Gay Olympics in San Francisco over the use of the word "olympics."

A few weeks ago, according to the *Bay Area Reporter* (BAR), F. Don Miller, Director of the USOC, demanded that the Gay Olympics drop the word "olympics" from their publicity and promotion. Miller cited a law protecting the word for the USOC, saying that the law was designed to prevent confusion, mistakes, deception or suggestions that some group might be connected with the official Olympic body.

On January 26, however, Dr. Tom Waddell, chair of the gay games, wrote, "We have been advised by legal counsel that there appears to be a violation of the guarantee of equal protection under the laws. . . . There is a discriminatory action on the part of the USOC which has sanctioned the 'Junior Olympics' and the 'Special Olympics,' but has looked the other way on the 'Armenian Olympics,' the 'Xerox Olympics,' the 'Crab Cooking Olympics,' the 'Rat Olympics,' and the 'Dog Olympics,' while at the same time takes exception to the term 'Gay Olympic Games.'"

According to *BAR*, Waddell is more than ready to take the issue to court if it cannot be settled amicably.

little bummer boy

SYDNEY, Australia — A gay radio show in Australia will be investigated if a conservative member of the parliament of New South Wales (NSW) has his way.

Rev. Fred Nile of the Festival of Light, England's and Australia's equivalent of the Moral Majority, has called for an inquiry into the Sydney Gay Waves FM radio program, according to Kendall Lovett of the Sydney Gay Solidarity Group. Nile wants the responsible government minister to revoke the license of the station for permitting the regular weekly three-hour program to be broadcast.

Nile claims that eight gay carols broadcast on Christmas Eve were blasphemous and indecent, and not educational.

According to Lovett, the Gay Waves segment which so enraged Nile was a recording made on Oxford Street in the heart of Sydney's gay entertainment area, of the Sydney Gay Liberation Quire performing for passers-by a few evenings earlier. The selections included "We Three Queens of Oxford Street," "God Help You, Merry Dykes and Poofs," "Little Bummer Boy," "Thank You Lord for Gay Liberation," and "Hark, the Herald Fairies Shout."

Defenders of the program have claimed that the show is beyond a doubt educational. Questions have also been raised as to why Nile, as a member of the NSW parliament, has his own radio show. Niles's detractors also want to know who pays for his weekly four-hour slot.

end of an era?

Hopes for the Equal Rights Amendment grew dimmer in January.

On January 13, the Oklahoma State Senate voted against ratification, according to the *Washington Post*. The vote was 27 to 21 against ratification.

NOW had waged an intense lobbying campaign in Oklahoma prior to the vote, along with a concerted advertising effort and speaking tours on behalf of the amendment by former vice president Walter Mondale, former House speaker Carl Albert and actor Alan Alda.

The Georgia House also rejected the proposed amendment in a 116-to-57 vote which came a week after the Oklahoma rejection, according to the *Post*.

lesbians swap privilege for health

"Lesbians as a group seem mentally and medically healthier than heterosexual women and homosexual men," observed a male gynecologist after reviewing a ground-breaking study on health of lesbians and bisexual women.

"Factors influencing lesbian gynecologic care: A preliminary study" was recently published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, a publication which is found in almost every medical school and hospital library in the country.

In her study, Dr. Susan Johnson summarized the gynecologic experiences of 100 lesbians and 15 bisexual women, 19 to 52 years of age. The mean age of the group, however was only 29, and white, educated, middle class women were disproportionately represented in the study sample, according to a report in *off our backs*.

The women studied had no cases of herpes, gonorrhea or syphilis, lower rates of endometriosis (inflammation of the vaginal wall), average rates of menstrual problems and less trouble with depression. Yeast infections were also less common among the women in the study than among heterosexual women in other studies, 46 percent as compared to 86 percent.

Only 23 percent of the lesbians studied reported sexual dysfunctions in contrast to 63 percent of the white, middle-class, married heterosexual women in a similar study. Cervical dysplasia (cancer of the cervix) was almost nonexistent in this study population, occurring in only one bisexual woman. (This finding contradicts that of Dr. Patricia Robinson, who observed in 1979 that this disease occurs more often among lesbians. Robinson hypothesized that this is true because lesbians, not needing birth control, see their gynecologists less often, therefore have pap smears done less frequently than straight women do.)

suck for your rights

TORONTO — Fifty breastfeeding mothers staged a "Suck-in" at a Toronto shopping mall, after one woman was ejected from the mall for nursing her infant son, according to *Big Mama Rag*.

Jennifer Trott was thrown out of the shopping center after boutique owner Rozsika Antel complained, saying that breastfeeding is a private act like urinating and copulating, and should only be done in secluded places.

One of the demonstrators noted that most people aren't offended when they see breasts on TV or in ads, but become upset when they see a mother nourishing her child.

statuary limitations

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Harvard has declined to become the repository of George Segal's controversial sculpture, "Gay Liberation," according to the Boston *Globe*.

The Mildred Andrews fund, a philanthropic organization, offered to donate the work to Harvard's Fogg Museum but Seymour Slive, the museum's director, refused the offer, saying that the sculpture "was still under consideration by the city of New York."

"I had the distinct feeling that he [the Andrews Fund trustee] was using us as a lever to move the city of New York," Slive said.

A spokesperson for the Gay Students Association of Harvard questioned the motivation behind the refusal. J. French Wall told the *Globe*, "It's clear to me why the piece was rejected and that is that



Harvard doesn't want a piece of sculpture celebrating gay liberation on campus.

"They continually make us [gay students] feel unwelcome and this was another positive way of telling us," Wall added.

It appears that the sculpture may wind up in San Francisco. According to the San Francisco *Chronicle*, gay supervisor Harry Britt is making formal arrangements for the city to buy the work for \$150,000. The *Chronicle* noted that Britt hopes to install "Gay Liberation" in Harvey Milk Plaza, an open space at the corner of Market and Castro Streets, in the heart of the heavily gay Castro district.

The sculpture also stirred controversy in Los Angeles when an attempt was made to locate the work in the West Hollywood neighborhood, also largely gay. According to the *Chronicle*, the attempt "became bogged down late last year when gay activists and city officials couldn't agree on a site."

Criticism of the sculpture in New York came from many fronts. Conservative opponents of the work claimed in numerous public hearings that the monument was a celebration of an immoral lifestyle. A number of gay activists, however, objected to the work because, they said, it is not representative of the diversity of ages, races and activities of gay men and lesbians.

A final decision of whether to accept or reject "Gay Liberation" still has not been reached in New York.

The system of prisons and jails in America is inhumane to everyone, but it is especially badly suited to women's needs. Because there are so many fewer women in prison (about 13,000 or 4% of the total prison population), they are often sent far away from their homes, which reinforces their sense of isolation and powerlessness.

Most women in prison are from urban areas, but the staffs of prisons are recruited primarily from the rural locality of the prison. The vast difference in backgrounds that this produces exacerbates the tension between staff and prisoners.

Further, the small communities in which most prisons are located do not offer much opportunity for work or study release programs. It is difficult to get volunteer programs started because volunteers are reluctant to travel great distances. Most importantly, however, the distances between the prison and the woman's home make it practically impossible for her to see her family and children and make it difficult for the woman to find out if her children are being adequately cared for.

For more information about prisoners and prison conditions write or call Lesbian and Gay Prisoner Project c/o GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108. (617) 426-4469.

News Analysis

Liberation and Survival: Boston Feminists Meet

By Marsha Maurer

BOSTON — About 100 women met at the Agassiz Community School in Jamaica Plain on Friday January 27 "to participate in a dialogue on our visions of liberation while struggling to survive."

The forum and speak-out was sponsored by an ad hoc coalition of Boston-area feminists which grew out of a conference held last February called "Feminism in the 80s." The Coalition also spon-

women representing a broad range of women's organizations: child care workers, union organizers, peace and disarmament activists, teachers, reproductive rights activists, welfare rights activists and others.

In general, though, the women spoke for themselves, not for their organizations. Three speakers identified themselves as single mothers and talked about the in-

women's community demonstrated considerable consciousness about disability, there needs to be still more. She cited the annual Take Back the Night March, and the tendency on the part of many women to set an intolerably fast pace for the march, as an example of some feminists' insensitivity to the needs of the disabled.

Wechsler also reflected on how the gay liberation movement has changed over the years. Ten years ago, she said, we talked of sexual freedom and liberation and saw ourselves as a political force that would affect all progressive movements. Now she feels our emphasis is on self-protection. "Being out is harder now than ever before — at least in terms of survival on the streets," she said. "I'm much more terrified, terrified about physical violence against me as a lesbian."

Sharon Ting, the only participant who identified herself as a person of color, shared poems and stories that reflected her growing consciousness of herself as a Chinese-American and as a victim of white racism.

These eyes march by me and stare straight ahead.

No acknowledgement of my humanness, am I invisible?

No response to my smile, am I ugly?

No response to my hello, have I done something wrong?

Oh no, I forgot, my eyes are slanted.

Friends tell me I'm preoccupied with racism.

Friends tell me I shouldn't assume all people are looking at me with racist eyes.

Friends tell me I'm getting too sensitive.

How do I know everybody is rejecting me because of my Asianness?

I know, because I've rejected Asians too.

A clerical worker talked about her involvement in the District 65 union drive at the Harvard Medical area and the difficulties involved in getting women, in particular,

Some women criticized the Coalition itself for not being a multi-racial organization and for not producing a multi-racial event. Coalition steering committee member Eileen Hansen commented, however, "I see it as a problem in the city and not just a problem with the Coalition." She went on to explain that within the Coalition there are two general positions on how to deal with the

"Being out is harder now than ever before — at least in terms of survival on the streets. I'm much more terrified, terrified about physical violence against me as a lesbian."

sored a similar forum last fall which focused on the women's movement's work against violence.

Moderator Peggy Lynch began the evening by explaining the group's understanding of its limited racial diversity and the efforts they are making in the area of racism. "We agreed to maintain an ad hoc status for six months," she said, "in order to correct our diversity, or learn why we are a group of white women, white feminists."

Lynch went on to explain that over one third of the women invited to give personal presentations were of color, but that virtually all declined, saying that it was not a priority to attend the Coalition meeting.

This acknowledgement was followed with music by Betsy Rose, who performed several pieces throughout the evening.

The first half of the program was a pre-arranged speakout by 11

terconnections between mothering, survival and liberation. One of the mothers, who has been on welfare for many years, commented, "Women are on welfare because they have been beaten, deserted and hurt. Welfare women have chosen to raise their families alone, by themselves, without a man. No one is stronger than a welfare mother because she survives against all odds. Her thinking is always collective. She is the only thing that stands between her children and the institutions."

Another mother emphasized how parenting influenced her concern for the survival of the planet and her involvement in the Women's Party for Survival (which is changing its name to Action for Nuclear Disarmament. "It's intolerable to me," she said, "that children can't plan for a safer future."

Nancy Wechsler, representing herself and GCN, explained how a disabling back injury has made survival a day-to-day issue for her. She added that although the

"Maybe what we should really be saying . . . is, 'Yea, . . . if we really want to survive we do have to fight, take power, we're smart enough to take power, we can run the place. . . .'"

to join together and fight for their survival. "Our temptation [as organizers] has been sometimes to say, 'Oh, we won't have to fight that much.' Maybe what we should really be saying . . . is, 'Yea, . . . if we really want to survive we do have to fight, take power, we're smart enough to take power, we can run the place, we can do a lot more than we're doing.'"

There were several other speakers whose messages were equally important. Among them were a

group's all white membership. Some women believe that no coalition can or should exist if it doesn't include women of color. Other women believe that white and Third World women have very different needs and priorities at this historical juncture and, therefore, a multiracial coalition of feminists is not possible right now. These women do not believe, however, that the Coalition should disband because all its members are white. Hansen added that "doing anti-racist work is crucial to either position."

"I feel good about the Coalition's consciousness. I think the idea of a coalition in this city is important. I trust what's going on [within the Coalition] around the issues of class and race."

childcare worker, a former teacher and women from the women's studies program at UMass, from the Women's Pentagon Action and from the Socialist-Feminist study group.

After the organized speak-out, women broke down into small groups to continue the discussion on a more intimate level. When the group reconvened a woman raised the issue of racism again, saying that in her eight years of living in Boston she has seen fewer and fewer women of color attending events like this one. She said that she wouldn't feel comfortable if we didn't talk about why we are a group of all white women.

Coalition members hope to develop a clear direction on the issue of racism by April, which will mark the end of their six-month ad hoc status. About this effort Hansen said, "I feel good about the coalition's consciousness. I think the idea of a coalition in this city is important. I trust what's going on [within the coalition] around the issues of class and race. We don't have the answers, but we are struggling to find the right way."

The next meeting of the ad hoc Coalition of Boston Area Feminists will be held on Tuesday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m. at 120 Boylston St.

International Lesbian Group Holds Conference in Belgium

By Nancy Wechsler

LICHTAART, Belgium — The International Lesbian Information Service (ILIS) held its most recent conference in Belgium between December 30 and January 3, according to London Gay News (GN).

The conference was attended by 90 women from many different countries including Finland, Belgium, Holland, Norway, Denmark, Britain, France, the United States, New Zealand and Spain. Among the many issues discussed in workshops were: lesbians and work; lesbians and physical and mental health; lesbians and motherhood; radical lesbianism and feminism; and lesbians and sexuality.

ILIS had been the women's branch of the International Gay Association (IGA) until last April when at an ILIS meeting just prior to the IGA conference in Turin, Italy, the women voted to break away from IGA and form a separate organization. Many women have remained in IGA and there is a large overlap of membership in the two organizations (see GCN, Vol. 8, No. 44).

At its conference, ILIS adopted a structure and a set of goals. As reported in GN these included:

- ILIS is a lesbian-feminist coordinating body composed of groups of women who choose to work with lesbian-only groups and/or with groups of lesbians and gay men and women. (Some women at the conference identified as gay women, others as lesbians.) All groups have equal status within ILIS. Individual

women can be associate members of ILIS.

- ILIS works for the liberation of lesbians from political, legal, social, cultural and economic oppression, from an anti-racist, anti-sexist and anti-classist perspective.

- ILIS works through such means as the exchange of information and co-ordination of actions on an international level.

- ILIS may co-operate with and support other liberation movements, and particularly considers the feminist and gay movements as possible allies.

Any group may become a member of ILIS providing its aims are consistent with those of the organization. Membership dues for 1982 are \$50.00 in U.S. currency. Groups and individuals can become associate members for \$10.00. Associate members receive any information ILIS publishes.

In addition, ILIS discussed its participation in an IGA-called year of action to celebrate 1983 as the "International Year of Lesbian and Gay Human Rights." There will be an IGA-sponsored demonstration at United Nations headquarters in New York October 23 through 24, 1983.

In a related story, the IGA has announced that its next conference will be in Washington, D.C. July 12 through 17, 1982. It will be held at George Washington University. This is the first time IGA has held its conference outside of Europe. It is open to all observers and organization members. Only members will be allowed to vote.

For more information about the IGA contact: IGA, Gay Community Center, 1469 Church St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

For more information about ILIS contact ILIS, PL45, 00251 Helsinki 25, Finland.

—filed from Boston

Suit Challenges Disapproval Of Gay Course by University

By David Morris

CINCINNATI, OH — A lawsuit filed here recently by a gay activist seeks to force the University of Cincinnati to include in its summer 1982 schedule a course on sexual subcultures it had cancelled last fall.

Filed on January 19, John Zeh's suit also asks \$100,000 in exemplary damages as compensation for cancellation of the non-credit course, which would have been taught in the University's Division of Continuing Education.

Four days before the suit was filed, university administrators in effect refused Zeh's request to teach the course this summer by failing to approve it before the January 15 deadline Zeh had set.

Ken Service of the university's public affairs office told GCN administrators had not announced their reasons for the refusal. "They did not want the course at this time," he said. "They have the decision-making power as to

what courses they do or don't accept."

The same administration had claimed when they cancelled the course in the fall that an insufficient number of students had registered for it, but admitted that at that time three weeks remained in the registration period (see GCN, Vol. 9, No. 11). The cancellation occurred days after editorials in local newspapers criticized the university for allowing a course on homosexuality to be taught by Zeh, who had earlier been charged with distributing obscene material to minors through his radio program "Gaydreams" (see GCN, Vol. 9, No. 8). The charges, which sprang from a segment of the program dealing humorously with sexual lubricants, were later dismissed.

An editorial in the Cincinnati Enquirer read, "Offhand, it's difficult to imagine anything the University of Cincinnati could do that would be less worthwhile than offering a course on 'Sexual

Subcultures in Cincinnati' taught by John Zeh."

Zeh told GCN the university's actions have revealed its non-discrimination policy, which includes lesbians and gay men among the protected classes, to be "just rhetoric."

Zeh pointed out that the university will have to spend a considerable amount of money to defend itself in court against the suit at a time when the state of Ohio has recently made substantial cuts in its higher education budget.

The university's Lesbian/Gay Academic Union and Gay/Lesbian Alliance have voiced support for Zeh and the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors has offered to pay part of his legal expenses if he loses the case.

The case has not yet been assigned to a court and no date has been set for a hearing.

—filed from Boston

Community Voices

liberating the news

Dear Friends,

As *GCN* reported two weeks in a row, I am presently living through a nightmare. I was abruptly arrested when I attempted to help a boy whom I know who had been arrested. I was held all night and treated with hostility and abuse by Boston police. The same police mistreated three black transvestites in my presence, stripping two of them, including their underwear, and harassing them sexually. Released at last at 5:00 a.m., I came home to find my front door broken through and damaged, and my whole house ransacked by police. Radio stations WEEI and WRKO and the Boston *Globe* carried vicious and false reports about my arrest. In fact, I was charged with one complaint: that I engaged in consensual fellatio with a boy, thirteen at that time, in 1979.

The boy made the "complaint" after he had been taken into custody by police and was being questioned on a variety of charges, including a stolen car, a stolen check and violation of his probation. (He had been convicted last year of prostitution.) I did not meet this boy until mid-1980, and I did not have sex with him at any time. The charge is false. That will be shown in court. What is far more damaging to me, however, and more newsworthy for the lesbian and gay community, is the scandalous way the case was treated by police and media. What should have been emphasized in the *GCN* "news" article is that there was wholesale slander against a gay man and that such treatment is standard.

I continue to support *GCN* as the best lesbian and gay paper in America. I was deeply moved and am grateful to the several men and women on the *GCN* staff who supported me and gave me help during this crisis. I am terribly disappointed at the "news" coverage of my case. It scarcely touched at all on the real issues of concern to all gay people.

The most urgent matter is media coverage. The *Globe* and the radio reports made false allegations, including these: (1) A boy of 13 walked into a police station and said he'd "had enough," and that I had *forced* him to have sex with me. Even police officers on duty at the time could refute such outlandish charges. Nothing remotely like that took place. (2) Police, according to the media, said the boy was my adopted son, living with me. These statements are easily disproved. (3) Police said they found child pornography in my home, including (according to the radio) many pornographic films. Police did NOT, in reality, charge me with child pornography, because no child pornography existed. I have never owned ANY film of any type. (4) One radio report began, "Child Pornography Ring Broken," and then gave my exact address.

Imagine a situation in which a straight person is charged with theft from a department store. Imagine the police and media knowingly making false statements that the man had also murdered several store employees in cold blood, and then gave the man's address. The exaggeration and falsehoods in the media accounts of my arrest are no less extreme and damaging. Yet these are ALWAYS made in cases where gay men are accused of consensual sex with teenage boys.

Nearly four years ago, while I was co-spokesperson of the Boston/Boise Committee, I helped write some "Media Guidelines" for such cases. We urged human decency and elemental fairness be accorded persons facing such charges. We pointed out that printing addresses coupled with wild and unsubstantiated charges of child pornography rings was tantamount to inviting people to attack the defendant and his home. Several radio stations, including WEEI AM, indicated in writing that they would attempt to follow the guidelines. We met with *Globe* editors to explain the guidelines to them, but were met with the usual *Globe* arrogance. In the "Revere" cases for

which the Guidelines were intended, the sensationalism of the media was grossly unfair. In my case, the treatment has been malicious, blatantly homophobic and absurd.

Among the specific issues raised, that should have been dealt with in the *GCN* articles, are: (1) Presently, all the legal terms for sex charges ("indecent assault and battery on a minor") confuse sex with violence. Sex is good. Violence is bad. The single most important issue in sexuality is consent and/or violence and coercion. All media, but certainly gay media, have as a first responsibility to point out that no violence in such a case has been alleged. Because of this incredible equation and confusion of sex and violence, one black man who read the story about me spat in my face and said, "So you've brought Atlanta to Roxbury!" (2) As noted above, gay media should be a watchdog on the straight media whenever they go beyond factual descriptions of sex charges involving gay men to print wild statements about "sex rings" and "child pornography." (3) Lesbians and gay men need to beware of the ease with which police can obtain search warrants from a clerk (no judge is needed in Massachusetts) and can seize files, correspondence, writings and books, and photographs and other art work which are an essential part of our gay culture and lives. Nothing seized from my house is different from material regularly displayed in Glad Day Books or in the pages of *GCN*. If such material is an excuse for a violent police raid, virtually any gay home — and certainly the *GCN* office and the bookstore — can be raided, and material which I have seen in those places (far more sexually explicit than anything taken from my house) can be confiscated and labeled pornography. Such a raid is an attack on gay culture. Gay culture is, thank goodness, quite different from straight culture. We must not let THEM judge our culture by their warped values.

Both the *GCN* articles about my case, and the article about Bill Bliss on the same page, read like conservative police reports. There were few factual errors, but harm was done to me by the article. Even a straight investigative reporter with a fair mind could have verified and covered the aspects of the case I outlined above — and many more. The *GCN* articles are full of police words, power words, oppressive words, THEIR words: indict, arraign, arrest, charge, misdemeanor, complaint. The articles lack OUR words: freedom, loving, consensual, gay youth. The articles even failed to point out that the boy (the "victim") was brought into court in *manacles*, and that he is still held in a juvenile prison!

As I have often pointed out before, the *GCN* news department seems to be seeped in straight, "balanced," "objective" American journalism. *GCN* will take only what is "proven" as news — and that is often only what the police say about something. Even French or Italian straight journalism sees through the fallacy of "objective" news and lets the reader see real facts, issues, content, rather than sanitized, careful journalistic jargon. The *GCN* news staff could learn something about political news (and ALL news about gay men and lesbians is political) by looking to some other standard than America's *Time* magazine, which their style resembles. However radical their personal ideology, *GCN* writers and editors have added to the heavy oppression I face just now. They have increased the power of those who already oppress us daily with their false "standards." Let the straight media give their "facts" which are half-truths at best, lies at worst. Let us give our own genuine news in our own style, in a free-flowing, humane, non-legalistic manner. That would be liberating gay news.

Tom Reeves
Dorchester, MA

unnatural

Dear *GCN*:

The January 9 open forum in New York City on NOLAG, though often acrimonious, found most of the participants agreeing that one should join the organization and improve it from within, rather than sniping from without. It was argued that NOLAG is the only national gay and lesbian political organization that has functioning local chapters ("grass roots"), thereby providing a chance for members to shape policies instead of passively endorsing the initiatives of a small clique, as is the rule in other groups that claim to be national gay rights organizations.

Regrettably, there are reasons why NOLAG cannot fulfill its mandate of representation. In the past decade gay people have scored a number of significant advances. Nonetheless, we still failed to lure the great mass of gay men and lesbians from the closet, where at least 95% of them remain. It is doubtful whether the NOLAG activists can lay any meaningful claim to representing this closeted majority. Our larger community contains few supporters of Peace and Freedom, the Citizen's Party, the Revolutionary Socialist League and that whole sectarian roster of pathetic leftist survivors to which so many activists cling, in spirit if not in name. Perhaps unimaginatively, but realistically, most of the 95% are Democrats, Republicans and mainstream Independents. A yawning chasm separates us from them, which we can ignore only because of silence from the other side. We should not interpret this silence as assent. The reality of this dichotomy, well known to straight politicians, has been slow to penetrate the comfortable precincts of our ghetto mentality.

Another reason for doubting the capacity of NOLAG to be a representative body is internal. Its bylaws provide for a complex array of quotas for women, minorities and the handicapped. In terms of gay organizations as they are now composed, where men heavily outnumber women, this provision works against balanced representation of those who are in fact out and gay identified, so that NOLAG is no more representative of the Movement than it is of the larger gay/lesbian population. As usual, trying to have it both ways satisfied neither. The system is close to being a gerrymander. If NOLAG aspired to be truly democratic it would treat members as individuals and not as mere tokens of corporate entities,

many only recently constituted.

In defense of the gerrymander system it has been said that the skewed representation makes it possible for lesbians to return to the Movement. Undoubtedly this is true for some, yet a great many lesbians remain separatists or primarily concerned with feminist organizations and issues. That this is their choice is fair enough, but it does mean that the loyalties of women are often divided so that their total energy contribution is less. In view of the widely differing attitudes and levels of commitment of lesbians one must ask whether those fully committed lesbians in NOLAG can be fully confident that they represent their nonparticipating sisters. Yet the NOLAG quota system is set up to give these possibly nonrepresentative women a majority of voting delegates. When all is said and done, NOLAG turns out to be a moderate lesbian-feminist organization representing a minority of a minority of a minority: that is, lesbians and gay men who are out and who are, to some extent, feminist.

The feminist complexion of NOLAG was shown in the Spring Conference in Los Angeles when the organization went so far as to reject a moderately worded resolution in favor of sexual freedom. At the same time it endorsed a double standard by affirming that women's bars have the right to discriminate by excluding men, but no men's bar should have the corresponding option. In the light of such resolutions many men will be repelled by NOLAG's apparent puritanism and feminist chauvinism, while lesbian-feminist women will chafe at the slow progress in "educating" men to the values they perceive as correct. In short NOLAG is an unnatural marriage to be maintained only through endless forbearance and compromise. If the organization has a future, which is doubtful, it can only be as the voice of one faction in the contentious spectrum of gay liberation.

The whole affair exudes a stale aroma of 1970s rhetoric and its attendant illusions: solutions in search of a problem. I would advise anyone who does not share its politics — surely the great majority of gay men and lesbians — to shun NOLAG for the anachronistic zombie it is.

Sincerely;
Wayne Dynes

disillusionment sets in

Dear Editor:

Since the Men and Masculinity Conference at Tufts University last June there have been a number of articles in a variety of Boston publications, including *GCN*, rehashing the conference and its implications.

As one of the workshop facilitators at the conference ("Race and Class in the Men's Movement") I have come to the conclusion that the "men's movement" is basically dominated by alienated, disaffected white men trying desperately to cope with their marginality in a world mostly populated by "colored people." In other words, the white man as the *last* oppressed minority appears to be the key theme ("men of color" in the "men's movement" seem to be heavily into *white women* or gayness, or both, e.g., the hot blond Adonis syndrome, or Snow Queen City). Moreover, this movement is heavily dominated by "bourgeois chauvinism" as well as the fierce "masculinists" (butchy boys) vs. the "anti-sexist male feminists" (femme fags) *jihad* (holy war).

In closing I would like to state that I believe there are *no* "new men"—just new *jargon* (old wine in new bottles). For thousands of years, every religious, political and social movement has produced its own version of the "new man"—Christian, Hindu, Moslem, Taoist, Confucian, Judaic, Buddhist, Socratic, Anarchist, Socialist, Marxist, Fascist, etc. (Read Joseph Campbell's 1948 classic *The Hero With A Thousand Faces*). Those who do not read their history are doomed to repeat it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Henry Jung
Cambridge, MA

still young, gay and proud

This is the latest in the series of letters from a young man in New Mexico whose father stopped him from receiving GCN a few months ago and who has been trying to deal with coming out to his friends.

GCN readers from all over the country have written him letters of support (c/o Mike at GCN), many of them quite thick! So if you don't get an immediate reply, don't be discouraged.

Dear Mike,

BAD NEWS! My father confiscated your books! Damn, I was mad. He threw them away. I really appreciate the trouble you went to sending them and it's too bad I couldn't enjoy them! Now, GOOD NEWS! I have enjoyed all the letters so much! They are very reassuring to me! I have answered all the letters and am corresponding back and forth to everyone! I want to update you on my friend. I have told him about my feelings for him and he totally rejected me! I feel so confused (that's where the letters helped 100%). I know I'll get over him eventually but it's sooooo hard! He's just narrow-minded and refuses to *try* to understand me. I'm mad, confused, upset and PISSED at him! But, there will be others that I'll like, I know. That's probably the second obstacle in my path of truth. My first was my father and now my friend! Oh, I'm in a sad state! Thanks a million for your time and trouble. As soon as I can I'll send a donation to *GCN*.

Love always,
Name withheld

GCN welcomes letters to "Community Voices." If at all possible, your letters should be TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED and kept to three pages (or less!) in length. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld upon request. Letters should be addressed to Community Voices, *GCN*, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

<div>Gay Community News</div> <div>THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES</div> <div>Volume 9, Number 29</div> <div>February 13, 1982</div> <div>22 Bromfield St.</div> <div>Boston, MA 02108</div> <div>(617) 426-4469</div> <div>Cover photo: Trekking in Nepal</div>		<div>Managing Editor</div> <div>News Editor</div> <div>Features Editor</div> <div>Design Director</div> <div>Office Manager</div> <div>Advertising Mgr.</div> <div>Advertising Rep.</div> <div>Promotions Mgr.</div> <div>Circ./Staff Writer</div> <div>Classifieds</div> <div>Distribution</div> <div>Copy Editors</div> <div>Local Reporter</div> <div>Typesetting</div> <div>Staff Writer</div> <div>Board of Directors</div> <div>Richard Burns, President</div> <div>Beth Kelly, Treasurer</div> <div>Cindy Rizzo, Clerk</div> <div>Bob Andrews</div> <div>Kevin Cathcart</div> <div>Ian Johnson</div> <div>Urvashi Vaid</div> <div>Amy Holtman</div> <div>David Morris</div> <div>Cindy Patton</div> <div>Paul Volpe</div> <div>Mike Riegle</div> <div>Sherry Edwards</div> <div>Bruce Gordon</div> <div>Maida Tilchen</div> <div>Jill Clark</div> <div>Nancy Walker</div> <div>Barbara Gischke</div> <div>Gordon Gottlieb</div> <div>David Foushee</div> <div>Larry Goldsmith</div> <div>Xanadu Graphics, Inc.</div> <div>Scott Brookie</div> <div>Eric Rotes</div> <div>Katherine Triantafyllou</div> <div>Nancy Wechsler</div>
<div>News Staff</div> <div>Joanne Brown</div> <div>Richard Burckhardt</div> <div>Bob Nelson</div> <div>Philip Shehadi</div> <div>Christine Guilfoyle</div> <div>Fran Koski</div> <div>Features Staff</div> <div>Lee Swistow</div> <div>Ouncan Mitchell</div> <div>Michael Bronski</div> <div>Steve Forgione</div> <div>Rudy Kikel</div> <div>Martin Krieger</div> <div>Wade Nichols</div> <div>John Kyper</div> <div>Lisa Nussbaum</div> <div>Mark Perigard</div> <div>John Zeh</div> <div>Nancy Wechsler</div> <div>Eric Rotes</div> <div>Joe Interrante</div> <div>Judy Stern</div> <div>Mitzi</div> <div>Andrea Loewenstein</div> <div>Warren Blumenfeld</div> <div>Marsha Maurer</div>		<div>Layout and Illustration Staff</div> <div>Rob Schmieder</div> <div>Patrick Maloney</div> <div>Brad Straub</div> <div>Jennifer Camper</div> <div>Nealy O'Hara</div> <div>Diane Ayott</div> <div>Design Assistant</div> <div>Paul Brouillette</div> <div>Tom Huth</div> <div>Roger Frye</div> <div>Timothy Blackburn</div> <div>Read Weaver</div> <div>Jeff Kopseng</div> <div>Ann Heron</div> <div>Photographers</div> <div>Ellen Shub</div> <div>Bettye Lane</div> <div>Joyce Harper</div> <div>Susan Fleischmann</div> <div>Oelintion News Agency</div> <div>Michael Thompson</div> <div>John Tobin</div> <div>Neal Trousdale</div>
<div>Circulation Staff</div> <div>Jeb Bates</div> <div>Richard Edwards</div> <div>Henry Gingras</div> <div>Diane Harris</div> <div>Katie Kenner</div> <div>Catherine Olohr</div> <div>Allen Blach</div> <div>Jim Fox</div> <div>Linda Gwizdak</div> <div>Paul Howard</div> <div>Jodie Neally</div> <div>Kendall Watts</div>		<div>Promotions</div> <div>Barry Forbes</div> <div>John Feeney</div> <div>Oave Peterson</div> <div>Indexer</div> <div>Charles Ash</div> <div>Librarian</div> <div>Kathy</div> <div>Microfilm Promotions</div> <div>Dee Michel</div> <div>Bulk Distribution</div> <div>Ray Hopkins</div> <div>New York Representative</div> <div>Rivendell Marketing</div> <div>666 6th Avenue</div> <div>New York, NY 10010</div> <div>(212) 242 6863</div> <div>New York Distribution</div> <div>Majority News Distributors, Inc.</div> <div>306 W 13th Street</div> <div>New York, NY 10014</div> <div>(212) 243 7770</div> <div>Postmaster: Send address changes to Gay Community News, 22 Bromfield St, Boston, MA 02108</div>
<div>Gay Community News (GCN) is dedicated to providing coverage of events and news of interest to the gay community. GCN is published every week (except the first week of January and the last week of August) by a non-profit corporation. All material copyright © 1981 by National Gay News, Inc. All rights reserved. reprint by permission only. Our main office is located at 22 Bromfield St. Boston, MA 02108. (617) 426 4469. Office hours: Mon. Wed. 10 a.m. 6 p.m. Thu. Fri. 10 a.m. 9 p.m. GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, which is published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc. Box 7229, Baltimore, MD 21218. Volumes 1-8 of GCN are available on microfilm for \$22/volume. Write GCN Microfilm for more information. Opinions reflected in "editorial" represent the views of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the views and opinions of the authors only. Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers: remember, it's YOUR paper! Second class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is: \$25. ISSN 0147 0728. Member New England Press Association. Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. COSMEP Member.</div>		

Face the Audience!

By Maida Tilchen

As women's culture has matured, it has tried to make itself accessible to more and more women—in the physical space as well as in record, tape, and book form. It has provided a space for a wide range of women voices. The "Lesbian Cultural Event" (on Feb. 13) promises to move even farther by making the stage itself more accessible, and bringing to Boston the voices of some new women performers. *GCN* caught up with these busy women to get their impressions of women's culture and discuss their feelings about accessibility issues.

"I'm really thrilled to be a part of this event. I have a story to tell by my presence and my songs, to impart what it is to be a lesbian who is black and blind. I'm not so interested in people feeling I did a good job, as in their getting something out of what I said that they can put into their lives."

Gwen Elliot's first Boston performance will be as part of the "Lesbian Cultural Event". Gwen has played for lesbian gatherings in New York City and at the All People's Congress in Detroit last year. Gwen sings *a capella*, performing her own interpretations of women's music standards as well as original pieces. For her Boston performance, she will be doing a Holly Near song, and two original songs which have been well received by previous audiences. Gwen, who is 29 years old, describes herself as an incessant listener to women's music. "I love women's music. I didn't have anything else lesbian that was accessible to me because I cannot see. And I've always been musically inclined." Gwen studied classical music and piano for many years.

I asked Gwen if she was satisfied with the accessibility to dis-

abled people in women's music. "Concerts are very accessible, except for the programs, so I miss finding out who worked on it and seeing the advertising. Also, I don't know what's at the literature table."

Finding out what is happening is sometimes difficult for Gwen. "I find out from the Lesbian Switchboard or from the women at the Womenbooks Store. Some of the producers have me on their mailing list, and one particularly makes sure to inform me. The local lesbian radio show sometimes publicizes women's music, depending on who's announcing."

"We also need lyrics and album notes in braille. Right now I have to rely on the clerk in the record store and a friend to read to me, and it gets frustrating. Holly Near's lyrics are available in braille. For me, as a singer, that's great. When I got the "Fire in the Rain" lyrics I thought I'd died and gone to heaven."

I asked Gwen if she thinks that women's music audiences are open to disabled performers: "I think women's music is really ready for disabled people. Just like anything, you've got to take it in small steps. It comes by one persons knocking on the door, and another, and so on. Every person's needs are different. My needs are different from someone in a wheelchair. But once we establish the fact that disabled people are welcome in the lesbian community, then the next thing to say is not only should they be a part of the audience, but they should participate in an event. It's high time to get out of the audience and onto the stage. I'm real thrilled and a little nervous."

A skit by and about deaf women will also be presented at the Event. Patti Wilson, Nancy

Becker, Alma Bournazian, and Laurel Chiten wrote the skit and will perform it. Says Patti, "We want to teach people to be aware of our communication difference, to destroy myths about the deaf, and to show that deaf people have a sense of humor. We expect to educate people so they can understand more about our different language and culture. We want to

show them that deaf people are fine, that we're the same, that we're like you."

The performance at the Event is partly a result of the appearance by Patti and five other deaf women on the night stage at last summer's Michigan Women's Music Festival. The six women signed the song "Amazon Woman, Rise," while its writer,

Maxine Feldman, sang. While the women performed, the full moon rose, adding to the very powerful impact of this performance. Says Patti of that experience, "Wow, it was perfect. It was really hard to say the right words, because we'd only had one rehearsal. But it was a beautiful feeling. I felt part of the community, and before I had felt kind of deprived, as many deaf people do, but then I felt open and comfortable and that people were people, trying to understand our difference and our language. Women's music has opened my eyes to the hearing world, and Boston is especially good for this."

Patti was also impressed by the accessibility to disabled women of the Michigan festival, and she hopes that there will be more accessibility to disabled performers in women's music. "I think it's about time people learned to be accessible on stage, too, for actors of all kinds."

Patti encourages women to become involved in the deaf community. "Women should become friends and learn to communicate with us and respect our language and our selves. We should work together and be equal so that there's no feeling that we're being deprived of things and left out." She suggested that women interested in learning ASL contact the Massachusetts State Organization for the Deaf and support the Cambridge Women's Centers' effort to raise money to buy a TTY machine, which will enable hearing people to communicate with deaf people by phone more easily.

Maxine Feldman chose the performers for the event. She told *GCN*, "What Gwen and Patti will say hasn't been said in music from

Continued on page 11



Arts on the line

Art has always played a fundamental role in the development of community. Art can build a group identity at the same time that it carries a subtle message about a sensibility to the rest of the world. The debate about politics and art—visual polemic vs. idiosyncratic view—will never be resolved, but *GCN* wants to provide a space that can serve as a focal point for discussing the work of current lesbian and gay artists.

Review by Patrick Maloney

There is an emerging class of successful young painters in Boston known as North-of-New

York lyrical/narrative abstractionists. The hallmarks of their style are the personal scribble, the personable palette and the provincial mis-use of the picture's surface and perspective. They seem to come from places such as the Massachusetts College of Art, Fort Point Channel and Nina Nielsen's Gallery on Newbury Street.

We may add to the ranks of this emerging class of painters the name of John Tricomi. His current exhibition at the Bromfield Gallery in Boston is an impressive if not austere selection of eleven paintings and four prints. His paintings are consis-

tent in format, size and execution (mixed media on paper) and aim to express the painter's own curious mythology of symbols.

Tricomi's symbols are the human skeleton, body parts, dogs and chairs, bits of architecture and stone; and assemble onto the surface of the picture like a game-board or geography seen from above. His titles match this mystery and are perhaps more tongue-in-cheek: *Eight Bar-Africa*, *Buddha Dispersing Suitcases*, *Salami Conditti*. The painting reproduced here, *Maudlin Mailbox Bombay* (1981), is typical of the Bromfield's selection in imagery and palette (muted grays, greens,

purples), but is not the painter's best.

That honor belongs to an impressive picture wittily entitled *Periodic Tables and Chairs* which transcends the painter's tendency toward a single tonality throughout the picture, and presents a striking image of monolithic, white walking-stick creatures within a real landscape. The painting brings to mind Picasso's best analytical cubism and lingers long in the viewer's memory. Tricomi's other influences seem to be painters like Philip Guston or the drawings of the sculptor Henry Moore, or perhaps local painters like Katherine Porter and

Gregory Amenoff.

Tricomi, now teaching at Mt. Ida Junior College in Newton Centre, has shown extensively in the Southeast and New England areas. His undergraduate training was at the Massachusetts College of Art (BFA, 1974), and his graduate work was at the University of Tennessee (MFA, 1981). He joined the Bromfield Gallery in 1981.

His recent work, excepting the prints in this exhibition which are timid and somewhat decorative, effectively taps the human imagination, and should the paintings ever increase in size and energy,

Continued on Page 11



The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute

The Outreach Institute announces the formation of the

Outreach Professional Referral and Evaluation Network (OPERN)

We offer

- Intake service for Transsexuals
- Evaluation and Referral for Gender Dysphorias
- Coping strategies for Crossdressers
- Workshops and seminars for helping professionals (including doctors, lawyers, social workers and ministers)
- Androgyny Awareness Workshops
- Discussion Groups for Adolescents with Gender Issues
- Counseling for spouses and friends of Crossdressers

For further information and details, call (617) 277-3454

Tuesdays 2-6 p.m. Thursdays 1-7 p.m.

or write to The Outreach Institute
Kenmore Station Box 368
Boston, MA 02215

Licensed professional psychotherapists and counselors. Helping professionals from the 6 State New England Area are invited to join the Network. For details please write to the Institute.

Boston Shoppers Guide

David Seil Associates Inc.

Psychiatric and Psychologic services for adults
Individual, Couple, and Group therapy
Psychologic testing and career counseling

David Seil M.D., Director

Located in Back Bay and South End 536-2665

FENWAY COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



16 Haviland St. Boston MA 02115 267-7573
Mon.-Thurs. 9am-9pm Friday 9am-5pm
Wed. 6:30-8pm Walk in VD Testing/Treatment
Tues. 6:30-9pm Women's Health Night

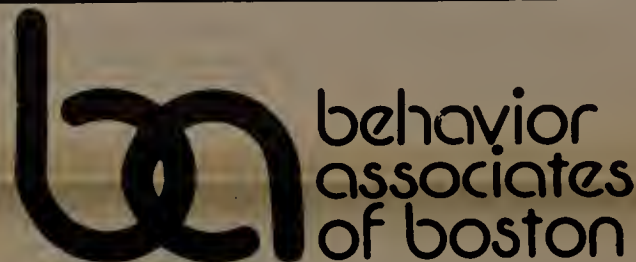
**NOW OPEN
SATURDAYS**

- General medical care — from hepatitis to strep throat
- Full laboratory services
- Specialty care including minor surgery, gynecology, podiatry, nutrition, alcohol/drug counseling
- Pediatric care for the children of lesbians/gay men
- Geriatric care for older gay men and lesbians
- Gay/lesbian physicians (Board certified/eligible in surgery, family practice, internal medicine, infectious diseases), nurse practitioners, registered nurses, physician assistants, clinical lab technicians, medical assistants, receptionists, administration
- Referrals to gay/lesbian sympathetic specialists

COMPLETELY RENOVATED FACILITIES

- Barrier-free • 24 Hour Physician On-Call Service
- Patients needing to be hospitalized are admitted to the Beth Israel Hospital
- Nationally recognized specialists in the diagnosis/treatment of sexually transmitted diseases

10 YEARS SERVING THE GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY



Serving the Community

- Weight Control
- Anxiety Reduction
- Depression
- Assertiveness Training
- Gay and Lesbian Couples Counseling
- Social Skills Training
- Phobias
- Hypnosis
- Counseling

For a consultation with one of our licensed psychologists, social workers or career counselors, call 262-9116
Insurance Accepted

45 NEWBURY STREET, BOSTON, MASS. 02116

Dr. Jonathan D. Stein Chiropractor

Treatment of:

Neck and shoulder pain Headaches
Low back pain Bursitis
Acute and chronic musculoskeletal conditions resulting from occupational stress and nervous tension

232-7200

375 Harvard St., Brookline, MA
Evening Appts. Available

THE BOSTON INSTITUTE FOR GAY STUDIES, INC.

Post Office Box 2750
Boston, MA 02208
491 8245

14 Beacon St.
Suite 506
720 0693

- Information Meetings at 14 Beacon St.
Tuesday, February 16 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, February 20 at 2 p.m.
- Psychology Seminar begins on March 4
- Conferences for Professionals/Students
Business/Managers—February 6
Organizational/Community development—February 27
Journalists and Publishers—March 20
Educators and Scholars—May 15

John P. Ward

Attorney at Law

Cindy T. Rizzo Attorney

David R. Lund Law Clerk

Relationship Contracts Immigration

Wills

Civil & Criminal Litigation

Incorporations

Real Estate Transactions

Corporate Matters

Estate Planning

2 Park Square • Boston, Massachusetts 02116 • 617-426-2020

GARY BUSECK and STEPHEN ANSOLABEHRE ATTORNEYS

landlord/lease problems
wills/probate
real estate transactions
relationship contracts

income tax
criminal & civil trials
injury claims
partnerships/corporations

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

426-9244

2 Park Square, Boston, MA 02116

complete lack servicing
dead locks • police locks
locks changed and installed
complete safe servicing
door jams repaired
and reinforced

Bonded Lock Co.

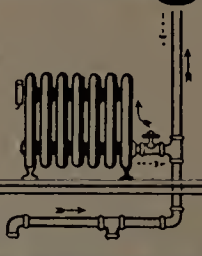
call bill 269-4770

quality work • reasonable prices
24 Hour Emergency Service

Plumbing & heating

Robert
Dargon

445-5891



COUNSELING RESOURCE CENTER

On the North Shore of Boston
Counseling
and
Consultation

Individuals, Couples, Groups

Dr. Orth

Appt. (617) 729-5268
or (617) 646-2607

Electrolysis PERMANENT HAIR REMOVAL

APPOINTMENTS: Mon.-Sat.
Days & Eves.

LINDA DIANE JEFFERSON
120 SUTHERLAND RD. #3
BROOKLINE, MASS. 02146
734-5777

XANADU GRAPHICS

- Phototypesetting
- Visual Display Terminals with floppy disk memory
- Layout and Design Service and Consultation
- Camera Ready Mechanical

143 Albany Street, Cambridge

661-6975

Save this Ad 10% Discount
for repairs only

LESTER'S T.V. TV-Radio-Phones-Hifi-Color

Expert Repair & TV & Stereo — at lowest
prices ANYWHERE! Outside antenna installation a specialty Mass Tech Lic 981
Old fashioned service at an honest price!

Free Pickup and Delivery

**15 REVERE ST., BEACON HILL
Boston Tel. 523-2187**

Boston Waterfront

Two, exciting new duplex penthouses. Spectacular view of harbor from decks, 2 bdrms., 1½ baths, excl. \$124,900, developer anxious to sell.

*Special 1 bdrm. duplex
excl. \$74,900.*

**BARKIN REALTY
566-7750**

Rights Bill

Continued from page 1
allowed to stay when the boss finds out who we are?

"Besides," said Endean, "affirmative action is construed as meaning quotas. [In order to apply such a system] we would have to assume sexuality is an either/or, which it is not. It is a continuum. . . . How would a bisexual fit into a quota system? With a part-time job?"

Endean added that, "even if we needed affirmative action, it would require lesbians and gays to disclose their sexual preference — and we definitely don't want that."

In a report on the hearing, a Washington *Post* writer described the National Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights Bill as "dying." Endean disagrees. Yes, he admitted, the Right has got the upper hand, but that creates a climate all the more conducive to coalition building, he said. "This is the best time to get commitments for support from other groups because this is the time when other groups need us."

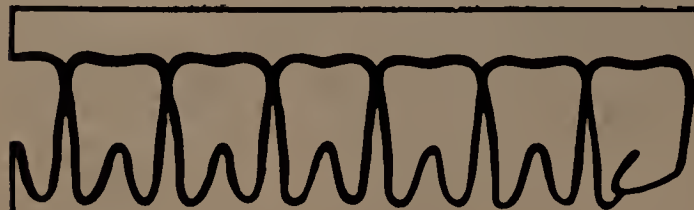
Endean said that members of GRNL will soon begin focusing their attention on labor unions, encouraging their leaders and the rank and file to institute non-discrimination clauses in their own contracts as well as courting their support for HR 1454 and local lesbian and gay rights legislation. "No civil rights issues has ever gone anywhere nationally without union support," he said.

Susan Green of GRNL said that she plans to seek a formal endorsement of HR 1454 in the near future from the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. Members of that union recently amended its anti-discrimination policy to include sexual preference.

The results of nationwide surveys done jointly by the Associated Press and the National Broadcasting Corporation also seem to contradict the *Post* reporter's assertion that support for lesbian and gay male civil rights is dying. In August 1980, participants in the poll were asked, "Would you favor extending fair employment and fair housing laws to cover homosexuals?" Forty-three percent said Yes, 41 percent, No. The same poll taken nine months later evinced more support for the civil rights of lesbians and gay men: 48 percent said they favored such legislation, 38 percent said they did not.

"The poll isn't a dramatic change," said Endean, "but the fact that there occurred any shift in our favor at all when things are supposed to be going against us is a good sign. . . . The 'woe is me' conclusion that is popular in our movement is without ground. More people are out of the closet. More legislators are willing to support our bills."

— filed from Boston



healthy teeth . . .

they're a team effort

Richard R. Bankhead, DDS
Paul O. Groipen, DDS
1259 Hyde Park Avenue
Hyde Park, MA 02136
617 364-5500
Mon.-Sat. & evenings

Film

A Moonlight Walk in a Crimeless Park

Making Love

Directed by Arthur Hiller.
Starring Michael Ontkean, Kate Jackson, and Harry Hamlin.
Screenplay by Barry Sandler.
Released by 20th Century-Fox.

By Walto Borawski

There is a cold, clean glow emanating from this film, enough to make it an antidote for those who found *Taxi zum Klo* poisonous. *Making Love* is a gentle film with the calculated power that comes from acting, and there is a certain success with what appears to be an attempt to continue the matter-of-factness of *Sunday, Bloody Sunday*.

Arthur Hiller, whose directional credits include *The Americanization of Emily*, *The Out-of-Towners*, and *Love Story*, has set this genteel triangle-of-sorts in blinding white light. At intervals two of the actors—Kate Jackson and Harry Hamlin—are indeed interviewed head-on, face out against a background of white. They both love Michael Ontkean, a doctor, and each has a scene in his very white office. Kate and Michael are married, they buy a white house; the fireplace in their white bedroom is white.

The people in this film are economically very comfortable. The doctor is young and cute but successful enough to have a big house and a small car and good tweeds as well as well-fitting jeans and wool sweaters. Kate has a dull-looking but responsible and presumably well-paying job with network television. Her wardrobe is too Jackie Kennedy for me but she's got her understated image together.

Harry Hamlin is a writer with few titles but a lot of very butch clothes.

The story is simple. Kate and Michael's characters have been married for eight years. They are obviously good friends. They are both obsessed with the music of Gilbert and Sullivan, and have enough fun with each other and music to be able to do a silly country and western arrangement of a G&S song in a C&W bar. They watch *An Affair to Remem-*

ber on their video machine and he verbally anticipates all of Cary Grant's lines, she all of Deborah Kerr's. They are very sexual with each other. What could go wrong with this marriage?

Michael drives his little car through cruisy areas. He attracts the attention of a not-bad blond who gets in, but when he puts his arm around Michael, Michael wants him out of the car—and he gets out, and very nicely. (All the homosexuals in this film—which means all the homosexual men, since there are no lesbians in this movie—are very nice). Only Michael is not very nice—but that comes from his confusion, and his confusion is so polite.

Kate is less polite. She finds an address written on a matchbook in the pocket of Michael's coat and she goes there; she wants to know all about it. The guy she finds is very nice to her. Remarkably, he has a jar of vaseline next to his fold-out bed, making him the realest character in this very self-consciously *real* ("natural," if you are rich by nature) film.

The Harry Hamlin character is a bit of a hypochondriac, a contrivance that exists for the sole purpose of bringing him into contact with the confused young doctor at the clinic. Hamlin is very Thomas McGuane, no one's going to blow his cool; but the doctor has actually read one of his novels, which momentarily sets him off his machismo guard. Unfortunately, the doctor is never off *his* (because Hiller sets one scene in the doctor's parents' home we can actually understand this coldness in him). So nothing happens, but they become increasingly tentative with each other. There is a lot of verbal copping-a-feel in this film.

At points, all of these people become very real, at least for me. Kate made me cry during one of her Peter Finch looking-into-the-camera heart-to-hearts, and the Harry Hamlin character changes from a man who'll dishonestly tell a hungry trick he himself is not hungry and then go out and eat alone, leaving the other man



Bart and Zack — verbal copping a feel

hungry in bed, to a man who can point-blank tell someone he prefers living alone, thank you. The doctor lost whatever pity I'd pulled together for him when he sets himself up with a blond lawyer in a pissy New York City apartment, looking very con-

tented and self-satisfied in his almost maddeningly tasteful clothes.

The film is liberal and non-judgmental and will annoy Moral Majority viewers as much as *Taxi zum Klo*. One of the intentions of this film seems to be to make us

hypernormal—with a quiet vengeance that should win the NGTF seal of approval.

So what's not to like? Barry Sandler's screenplay, for one thing, is as cliché-ridden as Hemingway's Nick Adams stories.

Continued on Page 12

Boys from Catholic Schools

The Devil's Playground
Written, produced, and directed by Fred Schepisi. With Simon Burke, Arthur Dignam, Nick Tate, Charles McCallum, Thomas Keneally.

By Michael Bronski

Halfway through *The Devil's Playground*, set in a Marist junior seminary for just-pubescent boys, a kindly, jolly, leprechaun of a priest begins to give a three day contemplative retreat. His opening sermon is on the horrors of hell that are a direct result of no self-discipline. Going one better than Origen or Jonathan Edwards, he dwells on the everlasting horror of pain: "it is like a man tied and fettered so he cannot move and there

is a fiery worm that is consuming their entrails; the pain is unbearable and it will never stop."

The scene brings the rest of the movie into focus. The sunny, bucolic, boarding-school aspects of the film dim and we realize that all the characters — boys and the teaching, lay brothers — are indeed being devoured by a fiery worm. It is tormenting each and every one of them: driving some crazy, others to the even worse pain of self-torment. But it is not the worm of punishment; it is the worm of physical desire. The school run by self-discipline and repression is a whited sepulcher festering with unreleased sexuality.

The older staff respond to their desires by total denial; Brother Francine (Arthur Dignam) demands stronger rules, damns the needs of the body, and then sneaks off to a public pool to gape obscenely at the casually exposed flesh. His recurrent nightmare is of being naked in a pool of pale blue water surrounded by four nude women all of whom are tempting his expressionless, in-shock body. Brother Victor (Nick Tate) and Brother Jim (Peter Coz) like to put off their mufti and go into pubs, get drunk, pretending to be regular people. Victor continually tempts himself by chatting with women and then just as he is about to lose

Continued on Page 12

FOREX TRAVEL

Phone 482-2900
76 Arlington St.
at Boston Park Plaza
Weekdays 9-6
Saturday 10-2:30

ALL AIRLINES • AMTRAK • HOTELS •
LOWEST PRICES • NO SERVICE CHARGE

Boston's Friendliest and Economy Minded Agency

Lee Judith Orloff, Ph.D.

Licensed Psychologist

serving the gay community

relationship and family
issues, weight control,
stress reduction, relaxation
assertiveness training

354-7939 insurance
Cambridge accepted

SILK SCREEN PRINTING

Fast, professional service.
High quality custom work.
No order too large or small.
Special projects considered.

Tee shirts, banners, signs our specialty.

(617) 426-4031

Ralph Bullowa / SCREEN PRINTER

727 ATLANTIC AVENUE BOSTON MASSACHUSETTS 02111

David Bellville
and Associates

Career Counseling
Assertiveness Training
Therapy for Individuals,
Couples, Groups, Families
Stress of Multiple Roles
Workshops
Copley Square (617) 266-1450

DIC

DAVID L. COLLINS, C.L.U.

Insurance for all your needs

45 Williams Street
Wellesley, Mass. 02181
235-8500

Orleans Shopping Plaza
E. Orleans, Mass. 02643
255-2600

Call Toll Free 1-800-352-3185

Stained Glass

traditional & contemporary
custom designs & etchings
restorations

Joe Fleming, MFA

265-2289
evenings

South End / Boston

apartment rentals
real estate sales
condominiums

Bennett / Bowen Assoc.

619A Tremont St., Boston

267-5320

SUBSCRIBE!

- ☐ 3 years (150 issues) \$62.00
- ☐ 2 years (100 issues) \$43.50
- ☐ 1 year (50 issues) \$25.00
- ☐ 25 weeks \$15.00 regular
- ☐ 10.00 low income
- ☐ 12 weeks \$8.00

These rates are for subscriptions within USA. Add 30% for foreign. AMOUNTS RECEIVED IN EXCESS WILL BE CONSIDERED DONATIONS, WHICH ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

- ☐ NEW
- ☐ RENEWAL

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail with payment to:

GCN Subscriptions/22 Bromfield St./Boston MA 02108

I am donating \$_____ towards a free subscription for a prisoner.

This is a gift subscription. Please send a gift card.

Where did you hear about GCN?

GCN is available on microfilm for
\$22 volume (individuals)/\$28 (institutions)
\$160 complete set of vols. 1-7

Please pay by check if possible

- ☐ VISA
- ☐ MASTERCHARGE

Name _____

Account Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

All subscriptions are sent in sealed, plain envelopes. Make check or money order payable to "GCN." Do NOT send cash through the mails. Our subscriber list is confidential, and is never sold or used except for mailing GCN.

GayCommunityNews

Amazon Trekking

by Lee Swislow

I went to Nepal knowing the country contained the highest mountains in the world. I went knowing it is possible to spend weeks trekking through the mountains (friends and friends of friends had done it in the recent past). I went knowing it is very cheap to live there. I went knowing I would be with friends. It was enough to know, and left room for lots to learn.

Nepal began with my arrival in Katmandu, the capital, with Mac, my friend of many years, now living in Ohio, who was with me throughout the trip. Several days later Betsy and Berit arrived after their three week stay in Paris. Betsy is my oldest, closest friend and Berit, her lover, also a special, much loved friend. Betsy and Mac were old friends; Berit and Mac had never met. We were to trek five weeks together, and then continue our separate trips.

Trekking in Nepal is not a journey into the wilderness. There are very few roads, and many of the people live in villages in the mountains. Along the trails connecting the towns, the Nepalese carry out their agricultural and animal products for trade, and bring in anything/everything they need from the mechanized world. Mac called these trails the Nepalese state highway system. All the towns have small teahouses where you can get tea, sometimes chapatis (a flat flour and water bread similar to tortillas), sometimes eggs, and dahl baat (rice, beans and curried vegetables, the standard Nepalese meal). If you eat dinner at a teahouse, sleeping is free in the smokey room that is kitchen, living room, bedroom. We usually slept in our tents.

Nepal, a kingdom between India and China, has only been open to Westerners since the 1950's. Because of the mountains and the trails and the lack of roads, it is an ideal place to trek. Most people travel with porters, who carry their equipment, and with guides, who tell them where to go. These can be organized treks, set up through travel agencies, or individuals can hire their own porters and guides. We travelled self-help, with our packs always on our backs and our *Guide to Trekking in Nepal* to tell us what we needed to know.

Our route was 150-200 miles (we never knew the distances we travelled; the number of hours was the important measurement) around the Annapurna mountain range. We started in Dumre at 1500 feet, crossed a pass at 17,650 feet and, with many ups and downs, ended in Pikhara at 2100 feet. We also did a side trip into the Annapurna sanctuary, where expeditions establish their base camps for ascents up the surrounding mountains.

On this trip I wrote 200 pages in my journal — 200 pages of feelings and experiences and adventures and dreams. I originally thought that for this article I would condense and rewrite those two months worth of stuff. Instead I realized I had already written everything I wanted to say. What follows are pieces of my journey.

Sept. 21

I'm still circling around goodbyes — goodbye to what is familiar — goodbye to day to day life — goodbye to phone messages and making dates — goodbye to a solid web of love and support — goodbye to feeling in charge at work — goodbye to feeling overwhelmed at work — goodbye to some of the women I love — goodbye to the craziness of my lesbian culture — goodbye to the bar and disco music — goodbye to what I know.

Tears inside my eyes. Is there any place for them to go? On a grassy strip across from Air India, traffic passing in a steady stream, surrounded by cruising cab drivers, I make my space. In this way I am already on my trip, checking out the scene and finding my spot. I am a traveler. I am to be an amazon trekker.

The presence of Boston fades. How will I miss people? At what times? In what ways? I know life goes on. Two months is short in Cambridge. My time will be full in Nepal. I close my eyes to breathe in the image of the mountains. Hard with the noise of Kennedy airport. But not impossible.

Sept. 28

Last night going over our stuff; the trek becoming increasingly real. We are indeed quite well prepared. I'm so longing for the mountains; that is the reason I'm here. Feeling better and better about our group dynamics.

Sept. 30

We talk about pack weights, and it becomes a crying/sharing time. Bets worried about her back, getting injured, being abandoned. I cry, reassure, know how much I love her. I am so proud of how all of us interact. I will learn more and more about how to live life on this trip. Four intense women on an adventure have many tears and much laughter to share.

Today we leave for our trek. I am ready and excited; knowing it's where I want to be. What are the mountains to me? A place of healing, of centerness, of strength. A place of early physical challenge. A place I've loved just because it feels right. The beauty touches my soul, and perhaps the degree of inaccessability. Not everyone ends up on top of the mountain. The mountains last — are constant, are real. Much of my life involves struggle and change. I find rest in the mountains. I let go of some of my city life and can focus on me and on frivolous daydreams and wanderings.

Oct. 2

There's still some part of me I'm not getting to. A me that wants to cry. Maybe a homesick little girl saying to Bets that Cambridge is so far away right now, and that's sad and scary. A vision of my life disappearing, of coming back and being invisible. Afraid of being forgotten, replaced, insignificant. Or maybe more real, I miss people, I miss my friends. I miss my home, and in this far away, so very strange country, I'm just a bit homesick.

Oct. 5

I am glad to be so much here. There is much letting go to do — psychic, emotional, physical. In many ways, I have given up kinds of control over my life. My fate is so entwined with the wishes of these three others. And all of us are limited by the realities of life in Nepal — the trail, the locations of villages and food, the lack of privacy. We make plans for the day, and something always happens to throw them off.

Oct. 6

Hiking this morning, past the waterfall where the water actually seemed to fall off the side of the mountain with a strobe light effect. Through rice paddies, beautiful views, a climb out of the valley, doing great — and then Bets got sick. Cramps turning to acute pain, nausea, vomiting, cold sweat and chills. She lies on the side of the trail, moaning, uncomfortable, miserable. Berit does some massage, but Betsy doesn't want to be touched. We are with her, and she is alone with her pain. I find a better spot. We move the packs up and then help Bets come up, feeling now a little better. We diagnose a heat reaction with too much salt loss. Shade, rest, fluids and salt help a lot. Now, on our extended rest, I write.

Earlier I read the Adrienne Rich poem Jenny had given me — "Phantasia for Elvira Shatayev" (leader of a women's expedition to Lenin Peak in 1974 where all the women were killed in a storm). I cry as I read the poem — cry about the women's love, commitment, and interdependence. We are all very moved by the poem. We talk about this trip — how much we've grown already as a group, and the relation between our inner strength and our dependence on each other.

Oct. 7

Beautiful children playing. Beautiful, and very poor. As with many Nepalese, wearing just pieces of clothing. A too big shirt is an outfit for a young boy. Very few children go to school here — someone told us 20% of the boys, 5% of the girls. Children grow up so quickly. Girls and women carry water, small girls with 5 gallon jugs on their backs, old women with more than I can imagine. Boys take the animals, and girls too, sometimes. Everyone gathers whatever they can find to burn as fuel.

Oct. 9

Yesterday a spaced out kind of day. Somewhat of a hot climb to Tal, arriving and collapsing. I am spacier and weaker than any other time. Is it from the amount of trekking of the previous day? After tea and chapatis, Mac and I scout out a site and camp by the river. In view of the waterfall, shirtless, we stamp out the weeds for our tents. I flash to the Michigan music festival. Our space feels private and I nap outside.

Oct. 10

An unexpected day. Berit is sick and doesn't want to trek today. Bets has left her hat and sweater in Tal and wants to go back for it. I agree to go with her. Bets and I take off for Tal racing down the trail, packless and wearing sneakers. We go down and back in record time, 6 hr. 45 min with a ½-hour tea stop in Dhorapani. Back here, my body is tired, and I also feel the strength of having hiked 6 hours with little rest. I am incredibly strong.

Good time with Bets, talking about a lot of things. Easy sharing and being real close friends. I have known Bets a long, long time.

Coming back, finding Mac depressed. It was hard to leave this morning, knowing she wasn't getting what she wanted from the day. Trying to encourage her to get angry — unsuccessfully. Feeling her shut down. Later connecting in the tent, once again feeling all my love for her.

This sharing, this very exposed sharing, we are all doing with each other. So much space for patterns and trips to come out. And so little space to hide. It is amazing that we can spend this kind of time together — hanging out, enjoying life, and being more and more ourselves. People, especially women, can be so incredible.

Oct. 9

A flash of insight. I'm feeling a little left out and lonely. Especially after seeing Berit get so much special energy on her birthday, and knowing Bets' birthday is coming up. I'm jealous, and want some reassurance that people love me, too. I withdraw a little — actually a lot — around this feeling, writing in my journal while the others talk. Interrupting the conversation to share my stuff, I cry, get support and feel better. I'm learning more how to know myself and what I need.

Oct. 11

Fresh from a bath at the hot springs. I've never been to hot spring before. Here a small, silty pool, warmer than a bathtub and more refreshing than I could begin to imagine. Clean hair and a clean crotch — easy to make that my definition of happiness.

Oct. 12

Camping between Bhratang and Pisang — a spectacularly beautiful site — flat, in a pine forest, mountains all around. I didn't want to stop here. I was cold and thought continuing to trek would be the best way to stay warm. The idea of stopping so early just didn't appeal. Mac was sort of in to continuing, Bets could go either way, and Berit was exhausted and didn't

want to go any further. We stopped, and in the midst of the where-shall-we-put-our-tents discussion, I stormed off, saying I don't care. I'm looking for water.

I found water. And one of the most incredible spots of the trek. A beautiful blue mountain lake in the saddle of two ridges rising up on either side. Clouds in touching distance. Glimmers of the peaks around us. I cried a little. I do love the beauty of the world. Refreshed and centered, I came back to find my fantasy come true — the tents set up and a fire going. A wonderful meal of chura v(rice flakes) and chapatis and hot milk. Enough clothes on not to be cold. An end to another fine day.

Oct. 13

Braga is an amazing town, houses built up the side of a mountain looking like stone and wood versions of Pueblo cliff dwellings. We round the bend of the trail to come upon it — the town on two sides of a bowl with yaks filling the meadow between. The bellowing of yaks echoes in the valley, along with the sound of ritual drums.

All day we have been surrounded by these snow capped peaks, and I know I am here. Or rather, at one of the heres this journey holds for me.

After the solitude of the pine forest, we trekked most of the day through a flat plain with mountains on all sides. Strange terrain, unlike any I've ever seen. Reminding me of Wyoming — dry and desolate and brown, with occasional horses and Nepalese cowboys riding by. Bets feels unsafe and talks of existential loneliness at being so exposed to the elements. I understand what she's saying.

And for me — what are my tears for? I talk today with Mac about images of coming home, and not wanting to lose what I'm finding here. I said earlier, I feel totally happy go lucky, without a care in the world, except running out of film. I do find peace here, surrounded by beauty, being independent, taking care of physical and emotional needs. Without the petty hassles or the drek that everyday life can generate. I am learning that I am important. That spending time with me is important.

There is nothing to be afraid of. Those words come to me, and I don't know exactly what they mean. In part, that there is nothing in me to be afraid of — no secret, terrible section of my soul, nothing I need to hide from others or myself. Here, where I am so much with myself, without the noise that surrounds me, I can begin to believe that. There is nothing to be afraid of. My willingness to accept and be me — that is the mountain I would climb today.

Now here in Braga, our resting point before the pass, what do I think of our 12 days of trekking? In 12 days we have passed through the seasons and the world. I barely remember the hot, sweat-filled time among the rice paddies, trekking with wet bandannas and as few clothes as possible, buying bananas along the way, passing giant cacti. After Bhulbule we really begin to leaving climb, the rice paddies and tropical weather behind. The last few days, colder and colder, through evergreen forests, many animals and little cultivation. I sit here in wool hat and scarf, long underwear shirt, wool shirt, wind breaker and down jacket, sleeping bag surrounding me. I am over 11,000 feet — each day higher than I have been before.

Oct. 14

This afternoon Bets does surgery on my leg — a small infection I've let get worse. It looks bad, clearly infected around the area. She pulls off the scab and some of the surrounding skin with our often sterilized needle. It hurts, some blood comes out, not so much pus, there's certainly more inside. I almost cry — not quite. I'm glad I asked for help. I'm sorry I waited so long. I'm a little scared. I don't want it to get worse. Will garlic oil pills and a little betadine do the trick?

It's good to be having a home for a couple of days. We seem to be well cared for by this Tibetan family. We get wonderful food and wonderful smiles. Each night we come at six for our dinner — the time we're told to come. It's not ready yet, Mom's still cooking. The whole family sits around, watching Mom, watching us, drinking Tibetan tea with barley flour. Mom nurses the baby and cooks, totally in control of the hearth. She juggles the hot pans and lids without a potholder. Her hands are black and calloused. She smiles when we applaud. She likes our praise. The family must eat when we are through. I wonder what time they eat when there are no gringos to cook for. The room is small and dark and smokey. One oil lamp burns, there's the light of the fire, and occasionally the aid of the flashlight. There is clearly a place for everything. Mom knows the places, and at least some of the girls do, too. Dad plays with the children and talks to us with all the bits of English he knows. How do they really see their American gringo guests?

Oct. 17

Our first day crossing the Throng La Pass. We left Manang this morning, and now are camped by a river at 14,500 ft. Tomorrow we cross at 17,650 ft. Though tired, none of us are altitudinous. We have acclimatized well. We will go to 17,000 ft.

But today, a day of mixed emotions. Starting out strong and excited, with everyone glad to be trekking again. Yet also starting out amidst hordes of organized trekkers, with their guides and cooks and porters and lawn furniture. We stop for breakfast and they pass us by. Much joy in trekking — the sky clear, the peaks, as usual, stunning, the sun warming, and the freedom of being on a trail with no villages, no kids, no people for the next 2 days. Then I take a wrong turn and lead us astray. We have to bushwhack down to the river. Mac and I go one way, Bets and Ber another. I lead, anxious and overcompensating, feeling guilty about making a mistake. Meeting at the bridge, I cry, and get some criticism, and reassurance, too. But it's taken time, and a lot of Mac's energy. Stopping for lunch an hour later, Mac is exhausted. She gains energy with rest and eating. We take off again, soon to learn we are not as far as we thought. Bets is now wiped out. We come here to the river crossing, an hour short of our goal.

At our campsite, we find strength. Rest and good warm

food help — as does praising ourselves and planning tomorrow differently. An earlier start, shorter, more frequent rests, and more eating. We have a long way to go tomorrow, and we will do it.

My energy came and went today. And mostly it came. Especially by the end of the day, I felt my strength and stamina. Almost (it's still a bit of a struggle), I've been able to let go of stuff about the wrong turn and to delight in the beautiful moments.

I have brought many of my friends with me today, and I will continue to need them tomorrow. My friends — I want them to share this beauty with me. I want their love and safety. Today I realized what gutsy women we are, crossing this pass, as removed from civilization as I've been, with our selves, our equipment and a guide book. We are in truly rugged country and are demanding a lot of our physical and emotional selves. We're getting what we need.

Oct. 19

At 17,000 feet the sun is bright and the air is thin. Glacier glasses take care of the bright sun. There was nothing to take care of the thin air. Nothing except my friends.

Yesterday going over the pass. Can I recapture the feelings today? Today, right now, camped under the trees in a flat, almost grassy field at Jharkot, half an hour beyond Muktinath. The sun shines. My hair, my crotch, my face and hands and legs are clean. Socks and underwear are hanging on the line and I'm in shorts and t-shirt. (I didn't wash my armpits for, as Mac said, if we're not doing t-shirts, why do pits.) Although right on the outskirts of town, there are no kids and we have our own space. We decide to cook our own dinner tonight. All is peaceful and serene. And I think about yesterday's hike.

It was cold in the morning, 20 degrees. Berit, up first, started the water boiling. We break camp quickly as possible, eat chura and tea, and are off at 7:10. The first 40 minutes goes quickly — we do in that time what the book says takes an hour. It's followed by a steep uphill. We're at 15,500 ft. I start uphill, knowing I'm feeling slow, feeling slow and breathing fast. I meet the others at our first resting point, maybe 40 minutes later, exhausted and out of breath. Bets teaches me the rest step, resting weight briefly on the back foot with each step. We snack — we start again — the rest step helps — a little — I need a breath with each step and a longer and longer pause. Slowly, finally, I make it to the top of the notch. The terrain is a little less steep, and it doesn't matter. It's still uphill and we're hitting snow. Slowly, slowly. Yet still not too worried. Earlier, with the first steep ascent, before I learned the rest step, I was worried. Not just worried, but afraid, panicked that I couldn't do it. At lunch, though, 1600 feet and allegedly only 2 hours from the top, I was better spirited. Only 1600 feet — it was before noon — it was supposed to be less steep from here. I could breathe sitting still. Bets was the most energetic. Ber and Mac were holding their own.

Starting out after lunch, I think I had at this point given Bets the noodles and powdered milk and crackers I was carrying, a brief steep ascent and then a more gradual ascent through snow. Bets probably had taken my water container by then, too. Mack asks how I'm doing. I manage the words — pretty wasted. She offers to take the tent. I refuse, tell her to keep going, I just need to rest a bit. I sit against my pack in the snow and fantasize not getting up again. I get up — continue — often with two breaths a step. Catching up to the rest who are waiting for me, Bets says — we made a group decision, Mac is taking the tent. Collapsing against my pack, I finally start to sob. Eventually words come out — I can't breathe — it's so scary. And it's true — going uphill, I can hardly breathe, cannot get enough to keep myself going. My legs are strong and willing to climb, and my body won't do what I want. Over 16,000 feet up, the pass some unknown distance ahead. It seems smartest to keep going. And I can't breathe, and I'm afraid. Bets, Ber and Mac surround me, loving me, giving me space and support and my feelings. I stop crying, and get ready to go. I don't know if it's there, or the next stop — I think the next time they wait for me — wait for me as I go so slow, needing to stop every few minutes to catch breath that isn't there, that Bets says she's taking more from my pack. It's the taking from my pack that brings me to tears — the physical proof that I can't do it, that I can't carry the weight and get over the pass. Bets takes what she can find. Ber takes my sneakers and journals. There is little left but my clothes and sleeping bag, a very light load to carry. Their concern for me/love for me surrounds me. Whatever anxiety anyone feels about the growing lateness is not communicated to me — nothing but confidence and strengthening thoughts. I try to gather my friends around me — those far away in Boston as well as those with me here. I keep them with me to strengthen me, as well as to enjoy with me the spectacle of the surroundings.



OCT. 20

Today, all of us sitting off alone, feeling some need for separate space. I do not want to lose the knowledge that these women shared my life-threatening space. Yet I do not think I will lose that knowledge and bond. I close my eyes and remember each of them at the pass — Bets taking the water bottle, Mac the tent, Ber the journals. I remember each of them surrounding me as I cried. I cry now, thinking, what greater love than to lighten a friend's load and thereby add to yours. I cannot live always with the intensity of these memories in present time, yet the experience is always there, illuminating and informing my life. Expanding my connection with these amazon trekkers I am with.

OCT. 23

We have come down thousands of feet from the high pass, down to where once again we see rice fields. From these lowlands, tomorrow we start to climb again. We are pushing on to the Annapurna Sanctuary. We will head into it in just a couple of days. The sanctuary takes us back to winter, as high as 13,000 feet. Not high like 17,000 feet, yet back to long underwear.

What are my goals for the next 4 weeks. I want simply to hold on to and to strengthen my sense of self. To stay open to all that happens around me. To think of my friends and to think of my life. To not forget the pass and to not forget to be unafraid.

OCT. 25

Leaving Dana yesterday morning, we cruised into Tatopani for breakfast. Down from Tatopani and across a couple of bridges, we make a wrong turn. Backtracking, we get to the right trail, straight up the mountain on stone stairs. It's hot, I'm sweat-drippy, and totally ecstatic about how good my body feels. I could climb forever. Finally we reach our long awaited stream and, inspired by Bets, we all plunge in for total baths — our first all-body almost submersion in quite a long time. It's great and exhilarating. Then, over lunch, the hard discussion. Bets is tired of trekking, at least this long, hot uphill trekking. She wants time just to be somewhere for a few days and not to be always on the move. She doesn't want to push to the sanctuary. She didn't have fun today.

Berit and Betsy decide not to do the sanctuary. I am sad, angry, hurt, resentful, and much calmer after getting out my feelings. Separation is the issue. There is no time I would have been ready to say goodbye.

I say to Ber, it is a sign of our strength that we can make this decision, that we don't need to stay together because that was our plan. We each own and stay true to our needs, and trust that our friends will support our happiness. One does make compromises for friendship. Today, I let go of Bets and Ber in order to keep them in my life in a joyous way.

OCT. 27

I love the feel of the sun on my back. It's a festival day here, the water buffalo have garlands of flowers and sacred butter on their heads and shoulders. In celebration one even ate my blue tank as it was out drying. Today, a clear sunny morning, after yesterday's surprising rain. All the mountains are in view,



Mac



Dhauligiri, Machhapuchare, Annapurna South. Breakfast, and then we spread our foam pads behind the guest house to say our goodbyes. Taking turns each of us talks of the trek, the group, each woman in the group.

Not surprisingly, the trek and the group has been powerful for all of us. A place to grow, a place to share. I take in how much each of these women love me — Ber and Bets and Mac.

I wonder how I will miss Bets and Ber. Almost 2 months 'til I see them again. Half the time here, then a month in Boston. I look forward to this trekking/traveling time with Mac as a space to see more what my own pace is. To negotiate life with 2, not 4, is a new kind of freedom.

And a new kind of loss. The 4 of us were a family. We were enough, physically, psychically, emotionally. Two makes a much smaller family.

OCT. 28

Writing earlier, I am interrupted by the arrival of an organized trek. The guide and cook come first, then the French trekkers start to straggle in. At that point Mac says we better put our tent up now. Just in time, for soon after the porters arrive.

Huge red tents erected around our small yellow one. Huge red tents that could sleep 8 and instead sleep 2. Lawn furniture is scattered about, duffle bags arrive, the clatter of pots and pans. The French all wanting to be sure they have good flat sites. I talk with the guide. 14 in the party, and they have 28 porters. It is quite a fancy way to travel. He imagines we do it much cheaper. He is smiling and friendly. I feel more and more that, although this is how they make a living, the sherpas and porters are, indeed, well aware of the class structure on these treks. I feel well respected for how we travel.

Continued on Page 11

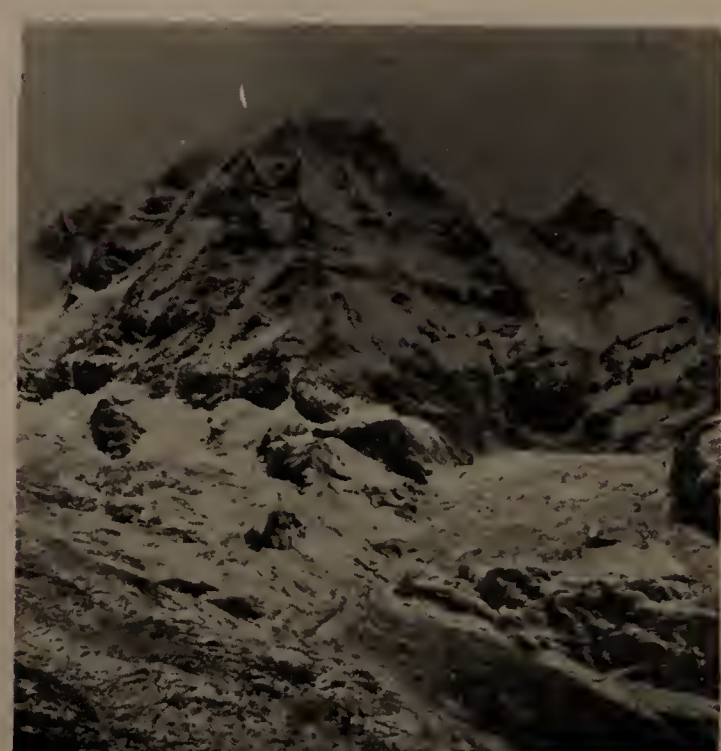


Lee

Photo Credit: Lee Swislow



Betsy, Berit, Mac, Lee





In Memory of Michael

"We are stardust
We are golden
And we've got to
get ourselves,
Back to the garden"
Joni Mitchell

Bonds Between Women
Alternative Fertilization
Take Back The Tale
Black & White
Photography
Beginning Guitar

INTERESTED?

WOMEN'S
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL

Registration: 2/22-3/5
474 Boston Ave.
Medford 628-2525

Support gay prisoners.
Read and answer our
prisoner penpal ads
on the classified page.

EXCITING GROWTH POTENTIAL!



Therapy Group for Gay Men
to Work on Various Life Issues
NOW FORMING

Mass Bay
Counseling Associates

Dennis Iadarola 965-1311 Don McGaw

FisherTravel 367-3490

Fisher Travel Assoc
Harry A. Fisher
111 Charles Street
Boston, MA 02114



AGENTS FOR:

Bermuda Holidays
Caribbean Holidays
Caribbean Cruise
One Week February 20

Swans Art Treasure Tours
N.Y. Theatre Weekends
Relais et Chateau Hotels



Koala Bear Haircutters

Vicky, formerly of The Mercantile Wharf Building, has
now joined our staff.

253 Newbury Street
Boston, Mass. 02116

247-7441

Celebrating the
love of men for
other men...

The title of this extraordinary, far-ranging collection comes from Walt Whitman's famous sequence of poems in celebration of homosexual experience. Reflecting the spirit of that splendid poetry, the editors of *Calamus* have selected plays, poems and short fiction encompassing all the breadth, diversity and quality of literary achievements embodying the homosexual experience. Among the writers included are both the expected (Cavafy, Cocteau, Forster, Isherwood, Burroughs) and the unexpected (Hemingway, D.H. Lawrence, James T. Farrell, Lorca). As this volume demonstrates so movingly, love knows no limitation of gender or sexual preference.

Quill paperback \$9.50
Hardcover \$16.50

105 Madison Ave., N.Y. 10016



Connie

By Nancy Walker

I met her for the first time at a DOB (Daughters of Bilitis) function. It may have been one of Sheri and Lois' magnificent house parties or it may have been a Thanksgiving dinner held at a church; I cannot be certain which. It was probably about five years ago, and I didn't know then that I would require absolute certainty. In fact, I don't require such perfection of recall. The specifics, at least some of them, are not what matter. What matters is that there once was such a person; there once was Connie White and now her existence depends on memory.

Connie was a great lover, a lover of life and food and laughter. She was a cultured individual having traveled extensively, mostly in Europe. And she lived with another woman for over forty years before that companion passed away several years ago. These two were extraordinary women. That much was clear from the start. Her friend was white. Connie was black. Had they lived in this delightfully bigoted country, things would not have gone very well for them. Actually, I do not know how things really did go for them, especially during the war years, but I know that Europeans for the most part deal with racial issues in a more sophisticated way than Americans do. Connie and her sother would have found greater acceptance in social situations in Europe, until very recently, than they would have found here. More's the pity.

By the time I encountered them, Connie's friend, a German gentile, was quite elderly (Connie was the younger by a considerable distance) and ill and about as cold and unfriendly as she could be. For once my suspicions of anti-semitism were well-founded. Everyone tried to be tolerant of her because we chose to believe that her "difficult" behavior stemmed from her high blood pressure, from whatever "condition" was physically destroying her, but I learned from friends that Connie had confessed to coping with this rather dour individual for many years. It really was her *personality*, not her illness, that precipitated her actions, yet Connie seemed not only to understand, but to love with great tenderness and patience. It was, even in my Jewish eyes, a beautiful thing to behold Connie's depth of character and devotion. Obviously her sweetness towards the outwardly sour woman came from long years of an intimacy that none of us outsiders would be privileged to observe first-hand.

Connie and her sother were a rare phenomenon, and I think none of us would have experienced them at all if it had not been for Sheri and Lois, the sustaining "mothers" of DOB, who kept including them in all their parties, great and small. Sheri and Lois brought Connie and her sother into the already very well-established network of lesbians in and around Boston who socialized without politics, but with great human concern for one another.

So I came to expect to see these two older women, Connie round and robust, wearing men's clothing (she came from a very old school of thought and did not stomp; it was just a comfortable way of dressing), her sother, frail and wraith-like. She spoke very little, but Connie was always voluble and fascinating indeed. She had seen things and been places that were only names to me. She spoke several languages fluently, even poetically, and she radiated such warmth and friendliness and good nature that I always wanted to know her better. One of the reasons that I had looked forward to Sheri and Lois' parties with such keen pleasure was that I expected

to see Connie there.

Not terribly long after I met Connie and her sother, the older woman died. The community of women who had come to love Connie was supportive and caring towards her, and at the center of all the kindnesses were, as usual, Sheri and Lois. They made sure, then, more than ever, to include Connie. I know that they extended their hospitality to her on many occasions other than the large gatherings at which I saw Connie. But Connie was, for all her warm and loving nature, a proud and private person and she would not, with any ease, call on others for help of any kind.

After her sother died, Connie began to decline noticeably. It saddened me to see her fading that way. But then, a new woman entered her life and she had a brief, beautiful liaison with another older woman who lived in California. Despite age and physical challenges including heart disease, these two courageous women determined to throw in their lot together, to "go out in style."

I remember the day Sheri called and told me that Connie was going to take the big plunge. I was tickled and thought, "Do not go gently into that good night." She had spent most of her life with a companion to whom she had given an incalculable amount of love and concern, and she was bereft of that friend. Why should she not have another companion to make bright the balance of her days?

Well, it wasn't destined to be quite like that after all. Connie and her new sother were able to spend only a very short while together before death struck once more. Connie was again left alone. I tried not to be too sad when Sheri told me that. I tried to see that it was wonderful for them to have found each other in time to love, before the end. But I couldn't help wishing for an extension of the joy they knew together. I am greedy, I guess.

Connie was a deep person. She never said the half of what she was thinking. She had wisdom, which is different from knowledge and different from intelligence. She had the wisdom of the earth and the sky and the water. She was sensitive to all living things. She was compounded more of love, I think, than of any other element. And now, she too is gone.

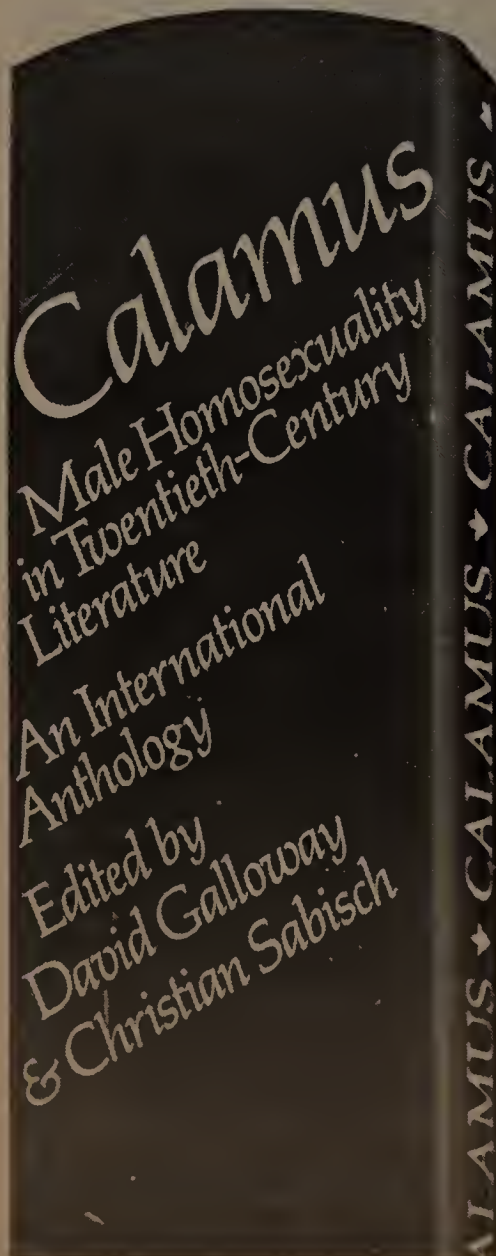
The other evening Sheri called to tell me that Connie had left us, and that I will never again be able to hold my pot luck supper plate on my knee and listen to Connie's wonderful talk or see her slow, almost impish smile.

Connie was on in years and ill and lonely. She had lived more in her lifetime than most people do, certainly more than I will. Sheri, who knows about such matters, said that Connie was ready to leave us, ready to go to those who must have been impatiently waiting for her to join them, but I was not ready to have Connie go.

Connie White was not one of my close friends, neither was she a "gay liberationist." She was not known to a great many people but, I would imagine, those who knew her, loved her. She was not a headliner. But she was a *person*, a lesbian who must have lived her life with great courage, being black and female and living when she did.

No one's life should pass unremarked. We are not water that evaporates and leaves no trace. We are human, and it is our common humanity that must be cherished and not let go for nothing.

Those whose lives were touched by Connie will remember her, as I do, with affection and admiration. There will be an emptiness in future DOB functions even if all the visible space is filled. . . .



Art

Continued from Page 5

Boston could lose another of its best to New York. Meanwhile, his paintings can be seen at the Bromfield Gallery, 30 Bromfield Street, January 23-February 12 (Tuesday-Saturday, 11-5).

Face!

Continued from Page 5

women's stages. As I do at my women's performance space, Oasis, I want to use this concert to encourage new talent and present new voices.

"Also, just as it is important to have interpreters for the hearing impaired on stage, it's important to have differently-abled women up there, too. One thing that's happening is that other differently-abled women in the community already knew about Gwen

Elliot, and are excited about this performance. A group from the Disabled Lesbian Alliance in New York City will be coming to Boston to attend."

(Tickets for the Lesbian Cultural Event will be available at New Words and Women's Emporium in Cambridge. Also, at the Oasis, 355 Boylston Street, Boston, on Wednesday through Sunday nights from 7:30 to 8 p.m.)



Credit: Lee Swislow

Trekking

Continued from Page 9

Oct. 31

I find myself thinking a lot of the end of the trek with a mixture of sadness and relief. When we reach Pokhara, we will have been 5 weeks on the trail. Of those 5 weeks, there was only the sick day at Chitre when I did not either go somewhere with my pack, or take a several-hour day hike. Even I am getting tired, getting ready to rest and getting ready to change my reality. The last two weeks will be full, almost too full, of adventure and things to do, with Pokhara, the jungle, and Katmandu. The time will pass quickly, and then back to Boston. Back home. I think often of Boston now. I am excited about resuming my life. I know much of what I want to do back home. I look forward to living with the strength and clarity of this trip. And I am afraid sometimes and I will not always be strong and secure. Yet I have learned and experienced real stuff on this trek.

Nov. 2

This morning Mac and I went into the Annapurna Sanctuary. The sanctuary is a small, flat plateau with the snow peaks rising directly above. I take a lot of pictures, finishing a roll of color and doing a roll of black and white. I've liked taking pictures on this trip. Often I find the camera helps me see, to look at the lines and forms of what I want to capture. Along with picture taking I sit, looking at these mountains I will not again be so amidst — so close to — so in contact with. I came to Nepal to be among the highest mountains in the world. I have done this. In this sanctuary, I am doing this. It is easy to simply sit, looking at these mountains. I

hear an occasional roar of an avalanche, reminding me that these mountains are not all benign, at least not to those who would climb them. And their presence brings me peace. My knowledge of them will be with me for the rest of my life. I think of my friends, wanting my eyes to be their eyes, bringing them with me, one by one, to feel the power of this special place.

And there is sadness just beyond, awaiting her turn. This is the end of the climb, of my journey to the Himalaya. From here, we turn around and begin the descent. Two days ago, I experienced the parts of myself longing for Pokhara and an end to this trekking business. Longing for warmth, and for days that did not start with my pack and trekking. Longing to be as high as I was going to be and as cold as I was going to be, and ready to start back down.

This afternoon, starting down, my heart was heavy and my step slow. Sadness began to tingle through my body. I am near the end of the power and simplicity of trekking life. Even though ready in ways for it to end, I have been so happy with this life. A life full of room for body and soul to grow and strengthen. A life that has been the occasion of much loving sisterhood. A life of new input and culture. A life where I have been free and safe.

I do not know when and whether I will return here. I am glad to have trekked as I have. I have lived this experience and am not now feeling I have to return to do more. This has been intense and special and life-building. And there are many other adventures that await.

HUMAN SERVICES PERSONNEL

A variety of full and part time positions are available at our facility for the developmentally disabled assisting our clients and helping them develop daily living skills

- NEW HIGHER PAY SCALE Starting Salary: \$11,628
- No Prior Mental Retardation Experience Required Extensive on-going training and supervision provided.
- Promotional Opportunities
- Excellent Benefits Package
- Convenient Location 20 minutes from Boston.

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact our Recruitment Office at (617) 894-3600, or write to us at the Walter E. Fernald State School, 200 Trapelo Road, Waltham, Massachusetts 02154.

WALTER E. FERNALD
State School

We are an equal opportunity employer M/F/H/C

ALIX DOBKIN

WITH KAREN BETH

MAXINE FELDMAN M.C.
FACE THE MUSIC/AILEEN O'NEILL
INTERPRETING FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED



CHILD CARE AVAILABLE
WHEELIES WELCOME

DONATION: \$6.50

TICKETS AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 1 AT:
NEW WORDS, 86 HAMPSHIRE ST., CAMB. 876-5310
WOMEN'S EMPORIUM, 53 RIVER ST., CAMB. 661-2059
GLAD DAY BOOKSHOP, 22 BROMFIELD ST., BOS., 542-0144
MAIL ORDER: THE COLLECTIVE,
P.O. BOX 39 W. SOMERVILLE 02144

an S&S Production

"The best book so far to treat the topic of gay male relationships." —The Advocate

MAN TO MAN

"The closest thing we have to a gay PASSAGES."

—Edmund White, author of *States of Desire*

"Refreshing, rewarding, and recommended."

—The Los Angeles Times

"A cornerstone of the gay library." —Connections, Austin, Texas

Now in paperback \$7.50

105 Madison Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10016

QUILL

"GRAPHIC EROTICISM... bodies and minds splitting apart at stunning velocity... proves Fred Schepisi is Australia's most accomplished director."
Carrie Rickey Village Voice

"SCHEPISI IS A MAJOR FILMMAKER; funny, warm-spirited beautifully made."
David Denby New York Magazine

"REMARKABLE... AMAZINGLY SEDUCTIVE."
Kevin Thomas Los Angeles Times

"DARING AND DELICATE."
Judy Stone San Fran Chronicle

YOUNG MEN TORN BETWEEN PHYSICAL DESIRE AND RELIGIOUS DISCIPLINE

"BRILLIANTLY PRESENTS THAT OLD PROBLEM OF MALE PUBERTY — especially if you're prone to debate Sex vs. Religious Control."
—Archer Winsten, N.Y. Post

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHANT OF JIMMIE BLACKSMITH
Fred Schepisi's

The Devils Playground

Starring Arthur Dignam, Simon Burke, Nick Tate, & Thomas Keneally
An IFC/ELMC Feature Film Presentation

Winner of Every Major Australian Film Award

2:15 4:15 6:15 8:15 10:15

Orson Welles
1001 Mass Ave. Cambridge 868 3600



this is the story of two enemies...

THE GAY GUY'S GUIDE
SO. STATION 423-4340
 - DIRECT FROM NEW YORK -
1 "Cruisin", "Sex Tool"
 "Jocks" X
2 Boys of Riverside Drive X

Boston's Best All Male Show!

DIGNITY/BOSTON
 PRESENTS its
Annual
MARDI GRAS
COSTUME DANCE
 FRIDAY FEB. 19TH, 9 P.M. TO...
 ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH HALL
 355 BOYLSTON ST.
 • Prizes • D.J. • Bar •
 Tickets \$4.00 Pub Run—\$3.00
 at the door \$2.00 Pub Run—\$1.00

Gay
Women



For a change in your life we invite you to try: **The Wishing Well Magazine and Services.** Features hundreds of current members' self-descriptions (by Code #), letters, opinions, valuable resources, reviews, and much more. Introductory copy \$5.00 ppd. (mailed discreetly first class). Confidential, supportive, dignified, sensitive, prompt. Eight years' reliable reputation. Beautiful, tender, loving alternative to "The Well of Loneliness." A family feeling. The pioneer of them all! Free information. Gay Women are writing and meeting EVERYWHERE through:



The Wishing Well
 P.O. Box 117
 Novato, Ca. 94948-0117

PERFORMANCE DATES

THURS. FEB. 25 Eve. at 8
 FRI. FEB. 26 Eve. at 8
 SAT. FEB. 27 Mat. at 2
 Eve. at 8

SUN. FEB. 28 Mat. at 2

TICKET PRICES

\$19 ORCHESTRA/BALCONY
 \$17 ORCHESTRA/BALCONY
 \$14 ORCHESTRA/BALCONY
 \$11 ORCHESTRA/BALCONY
 \$30 LOGE
 (includes tax and service charge)

THE
 METROPOLITAN
 CENTER
 268 TREMONT ST
 FEBRUARY
 25-28

ANAMARIE SARAZIN

THE BOSTON BALLET

PRESENTS

GAÎTE PARISIENNE

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS
 E. VIRGINIA WILLIAMS
 VIOLETTE VERDY

& TWO
 WORLD
 PREMIERE
 BALLETS

TWO EASY WAYS TO ORDER:

BY PHONE

M-F 10-4
 VISA MASTERCARD

542-3945

IN PERSON

At the Met. Center Box Office
 M Sat. 10-6 All Sales Final

BACH: SUITE NO. 3
 By VIOLETTE VERDY
 MENDELSSOHN:
 VIOLIN CONCERTO
 By JULIA WELLS



Catholic Schools

Repression — Expression

Continued from Page 7
 the battle he bolts, anxiously telling his companion: "They almost got me that time." The brothers know — although have not totally accepted — their lives of sexual repression. They live with their desires and bodies like people who have accepted, with great self-pity, a physical disability: somehow it is the will of god, but they are not quite sure how or why.

The boys have a much harder time of it. Their bodies are new to all this. The phenomenon of pubic hair and erections bewilder them and while struggling to make sense out of what is happening they are constantly warned against sin, temptation, and lack of discipline. They are warned time and again that "an undisciplined mind is the devil's playground," but it becomes apparent that the devil finds more fertile fields in the chaos and confusion brought on by righteous discipline.

The Devil's Playground is essentially the story of 13 year old Tom Allen (Simon Burke), a devout student who is a compulsive bed wetter and can't seem to stop playing with himself. Throughout the course of the film we see him becoming progressively disenchanted, but increasingly understanding of the rules he is forced to follow. They make little sense to his body, and, after he is denied access to his just expelled best friend, they perplex his mind and emotions as well. The film is partially seen through his eyes and we come to understand how the repressive atmosphere feels to a young boy attempting to make sense out of nonsense; life out of death. Schepisi (pronounced SKEPsee) has claimed that the film is semi-autobiographical, and it is clear that he is attempting to come to terms with his past, to both evoke and reconcile.

Visually the film is stunning. Lushly filmed and scored, Schepisi has created scenes that match the mood and tone of script to perfection. The inner world of school and church are all deep, glowing reds and greens — I don't think that I have ever seen colors that so approximate my feeling of early church going. When the film moves outside, on school grounds or in town, the hues soften, become more pastel, less intense, show some signs of real life. The effect is dreamlike, not quite the gauzy "memory footage" that has become so trite in filmmaking, but a memory set in the sure grounding of reality.

Schepisi's eye for detail startles. I was taught by Marist brothers in high school and it was disconcerting how almost everyone of the actors in the film resembled the teachers in my past. Every tick, facial quirk, habit, manner of speaking is perfect. The church services and the class room scenes ring true in a humorous, though painful, way that seems unusual

for most (commercial) filmmaking. Schepisi is even willing to let the most unbearable characters have their moment. Just before his crack-up, Brother Francine is allowed to play a lovely, if taut, version of Eric Satie's "Gymnopedes I" on the piano; the touch adds dignity to his subsequent actions. The kindly Brother Sebastian, quite senile, rambles on like *Lear's* Fool speaking truths that no one listens to: "What does it matter if they masturbate. It comes out anyway. They should learn to love themselves." Obviously, speaking for the writer/director, Sebastian is a literary conceit rather than a real character. He and the film's evocative detail are a pleasure to watch, but there is something about them that is at odds with the movie's subtext; that undercuts and softens its content.

At heart *The Devil's Playground* is about repression vs. personal integrity and freedom. Schepisi makes it clear that the outlandish rules, the strict self-discipline, the body hatred, and erotophobia is destructive; it is doing no one any good. But since he is also presenting a (somewhat) loving evocation of his own past, this measure gets soft peddled. Worse, it stints the film's analysis, and by not being totally honest, causes and plays upon some dangerous misunderstandings.

Although there is quite a bit of sex talk among the boys (they are all very interested in the size of one another's cocks) there is almost no overt homosexual feeling or behavior. There is one sweet blond who keeps wanting to wrestle, purposely loses, and then announces that the winner can do with him what they want — the joke is that he has a totally pre-sexual consciousness and is horrified when sex does rear its ugly head. Tom has a brief romance with a female family friend, but it is so idyllically presented it is one of the wrong notes of the film: a shampoo commercial stuck in the middle of a serious television program. We do get to know the lives of some of the brothers and they all seem to be heterosexual, too. (When I remember high school I could swear that 10 out of the 15 brothers were closet cases.) For all of his criticism of the system, I think Schepisi did not want his audience to lose sympathy with any of his characters; and queers don't get much sympathy.

The one sub-plot that has some gay underpinnings concerns a small group of fanatical students who are intent on proving their love of god by self-inflicted physical punishment and torture — beating the devil out of themselves, so to say. Their actions eventually end in a tragedy and the group is viewed, and spoken of in terms of homoeroticism, sadism, and masochism: the message of the film is clear — sexual repression turns boys into s/m queers.

While the emotional trials of all the other boys and faculty are treated with sympathy, this group is made to look pathetic. It is a cheap and easy point to score and clouds the other issues that the film raises.

Critics have been quick to point out that the film deals with institutional repression; that it is not anti-catholic; that despite its religious setting it — as they say — "could happen anywhere." And while this is true — repression is all around us — I think it is a mistake to sidestep the issue of religion so easily. Perhaps the film isn't "anti-Catholic" but it should be. The sexual repression, flesh-loathing, eroticism, misogyny, and institutionalized destruction in the film is part and parcel to christianity, and in this instance, to roman catholicism. To ignore the particular for the general is to miss the trees for the forest. If Schepisi had been more willing to openly criticize the church, I think he would have not had to dump on homosexuals the way he does. Repression is not a concept that floats about without a base, it effects people's lives. It is institutionalized, and those institutions can be destroyed.

A good counterpoint to *The Devil's Playground* is Leontine Sagan's 1931 *Maedchen in Uniform*. Presenting a very similar situation it brings the political nature of the material into much clearer focus; in fact, lesbianism is a saving grace rather than a dreadful by-product. The film's portrayal of human responses to sexual/political repression is liberating rather than restricting.

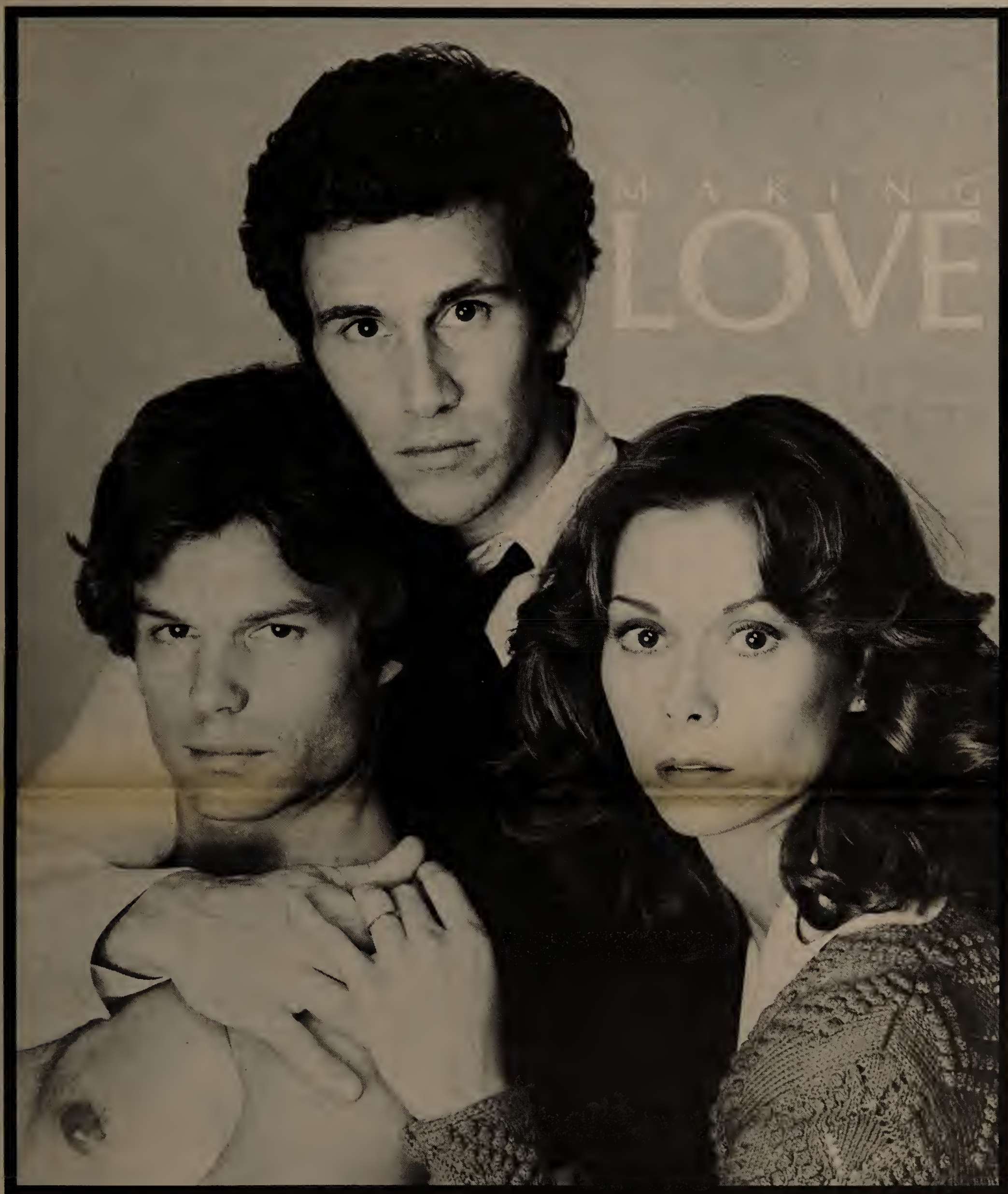
The Devil's Playground has its heart in the right place. It is beautiful to look at, intelligent (for the most part), and beautifully done. It doesn't go as far as it should, but for what it does — and considering the competition — it isn't bad at all.

Moonlight

Continued from Page 7

The Harry Hamlin character talks about being the kid fought over by two teams, neither of which wanted to have him; when the doctor is freaking out, Hamlin tells him he himself has "been there," he *knows*. The men in general are as big brotherly as the most exaggerated adolescent gay male masturbatory fantasy.

But for those who were upset by Frank Ripplöh's body functions in *Taxi*, *Making Love* will be a walk by moonlight in a crimeless park. There is no way the viewer could imagine Michael Ontkean's, Kate Jackson's, or Harry Hamlin's characters going to the bathroom—in or beyond what is known as the "proper facilities." These are tv soap opera people who've just had a long bath and been given their very own feature film.



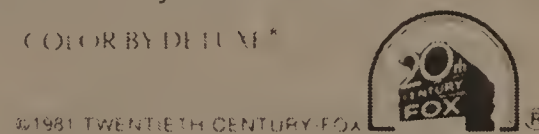
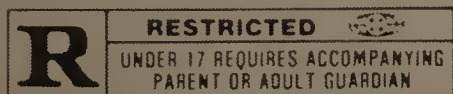
TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX Presents
A PRODUCTION OF THE INDIEPROD COMPANY AN ARTHUR HILLER FILM
MAKING LOVE

MICHAEL ONTKEAN • KATE JACKSON • HARRY HAMLIN

WENDY HILLER and ARTHUR HILL Produced by ALLEN ADLER and DANIEL MELNICK
Screenplay by BARRY SANDLER Story by A. SCOTT BERG Directed by ARTHUR HILLER

Music by LEONARD ROSENMAN COLOR BY DE LUXE

Available in paperback from Ballantine Books



**PREMIERE ENGAGEMENTS FEBRUARY 12
AT SELECTED THEATRES.**

Classifieds

FREE GCN!

If you are organizing or attending a convention, workshop, or meeting and would like to distribute free back issues of GCN, please send name and address to which they should be sent, number of copies desired, date needed by. Please give 5 weeks advance notice. Write to GCN Promotions Dept., 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

BACK ISSUES

If any one out there has extra copies of Volume 8, #1 (Judy Chicago) or #6 (Pink Pentagon), please send them to us. We have almost none, and we need them for numerous wonderful purposes. We would really appreciate it if you could send them to us, honest. Send them to Mike at GCN. Thanks.

GIVE US THE CHAIR

We would love it if someone could provide us with an executive chair (with wheels and arms, nothing fancy). Our furniture is sparse and such an item would be much appreciated. Please call Mike or Amy at 426-4469. Thank you.

GCN NEEDS INDEXERS!

GCN has an index system which is falling behind and thus a valuable tool is not fulfilling its function.

Indexing requires a willingness to follow the existing framework which was established some years ago; it's too late to start all over. Indexing isn't particularly creative work; in fact, some people might call it drudgery. However, if you'd like to make a modest contribution to the cause of Lesbian/Gay scholarship and if you have some time (VERY flexible hours) we'd be more than happy to show you what needs to be done. Call Mike at GCN 426-4469.

THURSDAY

GCN proofreading and layout (basically cutting and pasting). No experience necessary. We'll teach you all you need to know! Proofreading begins 5-ish and layout 6-ish. 22 Bromfield St. (near Park St. and Washington St. subway stops), 2nd floor. 426-4469.

INTO BONDAGE???

GCN needs someone who can help us get each of our 8 volumes (50 issues each) bound. Please call Mike or Amy at 426-4469.

GIVE GCN A WEIGHTY GIFT

If anyone out there has an accurate, functional postal scale, we would greatly appreciate it. Ours has seen better days, and for legal reasons, we must have a good postal scale. Call Mike or Amy at 426-4469 if you can help us out. Thank you.

DEAR ADVERTISER

If race is not a crucial issue for you, why put it in your ad? It is not a required formula: GWM, GWF are not necessary; GM, GF would do as well, unless you really want it otherwise.

WE LIKE TO DRIP

Our coffee through a Melitta filter. Is there anyone out there who prefers perking and would therefore like to give us his/her Melitta pyrex coffee pot???? Please call Mike or Amy at 426-4469 if you feel inclined to encourage our caffeine consumption. Thank you.

FRIDAY

Come to GCN office, 22 Bromfield St. (near Park St. subway stop), 2nd floor, anytime after 5 for as long or as short as you like (until about 11pm) to help send the paper out to subscribers. (There are LOTS of them and we do need help!) Refreshments and good times. Men and women welcome. 426-4469.

MICROFILM READER WANTED

The GCN staff would love to be able to read its back issues on microfilm, but cannot afford to buy a film reader. If anyone has access to a used one or would like to donate one to the office, please call Mike at 426-4469.

ORGANIZATIONS

MEN IN LOVE WITH BOYS

BOYS IN LOVE WITH MEN

You are not alone. Join us. For more information write: NAMBLA, PO Box 174-S, NY, NY 10018 or phone (212) 475-0987. (38)

GAY SWITCHBOARD OF NYC

When you're in New York, give us a call for the latest information in gay and lesbian events, which bars to go to, where to stay, what group to contact, and which businesses to patronize. Call us to rap or just to say hello. (212) 777-1800 from noon till midnight.

BOSTON LESBIAN/GAY CATHOLICS

Dignity/Boston sponsors a liturgy for Lesbian/Gay and concerned Catholics every Sunday at Arlington Street Church (Boston), right side entrance on Arlington St., at 5:30 pm. For info call Dignity/Boston M-F 7-10 pm, Sun 2-5 pm, 536-6518. DIGNITY/BOSTON 355 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02114. (c)

IDENTITY HOUSE

Lesbian, gay, bi, peer counseling and groups. Rap groups: 2:30-5 pm Sat. for women, and Sun. for men. Free walk-in counseling. Sun-Tues. 6-10pm. Donations accepted. 544 Ave. of Americas, NYC. (212)243-8181.

NGTF NEEDS YOU

Join with the largest, fastest growing gay civil rights group in the country! The National Gay Task Force works with a professional staff on media representation, national legislation, information clearinghouse, religious reforms, corporate non-discrimination statements, more! Help support our work — join now. \$20 membership (\$5 limited income) includes Newsletter. NGTF, 80 Fifth Ave. Rm. 1601, New York, NY 10011.

Socialist-Feminist Discussion Bulletin; articles on: Trends in the women's mvt, reproductive rhts, lesbian/gay liberation, community org, wking women, soc-fem theory. Available from: Solidarity, a Socialist-Feminist Network, 4360 23rd St, SF, CA 94114. \$3.95 (inc. postage). (c)

WOMEN PRINTERS

Typesetters, press operators, strippers, bindery-workers, are invited to join us in regular pot-luck meetings. Compare notes about your job — hear informal talks on occupational safety, union organizing, etc. — help work on a newsletter and other projects. For meeting times and locations call 266-6644

DO YOU SECRETLY LUST

After wimmin in black habits? Do you picture your soul liberally sprinkled with black specks reminding you of your venial sins? Do you feel guilty whenever you're enjoying yrs? Confess! Join ex-Catholic dykes group. Call Jill 426-4469.

D.O.B.

Support organization for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. Old Camb Bap. Raps every Tues & Thurs, 8 pm. 35+ raps 2nd Weds & last Fri, 8 pm. Softball all Sundays, 3 pm, thru Oct, Magazine Field. Bi-monthly magazine FOCUS \$8.00. Monthly social & fund-raising event. Info & office hrs 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (c)

GAY/LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, discussions, potluck dinners, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN calendar, call 628-3986 or 524-1617 or write PO Box 11, Camb MA 02138. (36)

Are you interested in forming a Gay Communal Retirement Center? Join others in the Ganymeade Society who are forming now. Write: Ganymeade Society, c/o Karl Volk, 43 Whittier Blvd., Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

SUPPORT LESBIAN MOTHERS

Lesbian Mothers National Defense Fund, 2446 Lorentz Pl., W. Seattle, WA 98109. (206) 282-5798. Membership \$5.

Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, services each Sunday at 7:00 p.m., 131 Cambridge St., Boston (Old West Church). Office 523-7664. All persons are welcome.

New women's media gp committed to lesb. education outreach thru media sks mems. Need assistance w/marketing, graphic design, fundraising, media work. Letter of interest &/or resume to Women's Educational Media, Inc., 36 Colwell Ave, Brighton, MA 02135. 367-2086 (8)

NH LAMBDA

Box 1043, Concord, NH 03301. Concord. 224-3875, 746-3339; Dover/Portsmouth: 431-1541. CRISIS LINE: 483-2592, Sun, Mon, Wed 6-9 pm. A statewide organization, meeting the third Saturday of every month. Support, education, and political action, since 1976. (45)

PUBLICATIONS

SISTERSOURCE

A Midwest newspaper published every 6 wks by SisterSource, Inc. endeavoring to print news, features, commentaries, etc., from a Lesbian/Feminist perspective. For more info: SisterSource, PO Box 14070, Chicago, IL 60614, Attn: Circulation Dept. (29)

Monthly calendar of women's events in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, \$1 for sample issue, \$7.50 per year. Write: Full Circle, P.O. Box 235, Contoocook, NH 03229. (15)

Free lesbian catalog of books, send two 15¢ stamps, Womankind Books, Dept GCN, 1899 New York Ave., Huntington Station, NY 11746 (516) 427-1289. (12)

THE BOSTON GAY REVIEW

A quarterly of criticism devoted to the Arts and our developing lesbian and gay male lifestyles in general, with a particular interest in small press publication, welcomes review copies, authors' queries, and subscriptions: \$5.00 for 6 issues, Box 277, Astor Station, Boston, MA 02123. (c)

PLEXUS

San Francisco Bay Area Women's Newspaper since 1974 brings you monthly feminist news, reviews, features, community forum, calendar & more. Subs are just \$8/yr, sample copy \$1. 545 Athol Ave, Oakland, CA 94606. (1/mo)

GUARDIAN: Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles, and international progressive movements. Special offer 4 issues FREE. Write Guardian Dept GCN, 33 W 17th St. NY NY 10011. (ex)

GRAB ITT

Read In These Times, the independent national socialist newspaper. Each week brings fresh and responsible socialist analyses of critical issues & unique features. Congressperson John Conyers says we're "invaluable." SF Supervisor Harry Britt supports us. Why don't you read us? 6 mo sub/10.95. In These Times, 1509 N. Milwaukee, Dep. A. Chicago, IL 60622. (29) (30x)

HOW GAY IS YOUR LIBRARY?

Pamphlet of tips for non-librarians on how to get gay materials into libraries, available from the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association. "Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive? How to Get Gay Materials into Libraries" explains library selection policies in a general way, and tells how you can get a library to buy more gay books & periodicals. Also tells what to do if library refuses your request; why gay bks are sometimes kept where you have to ask for them; & how to donate materials to the library. \$1 to Barbara Gittings — GTF, P.O. Box 2383, Phila., PA 19103. Bkstore & bulk order discount available. More info: Barbara Gittings (215)382-3222. (c)

FOCUS

A Journal for Lesbians. America's oldest literary mag for lesbians. 11 yrs continuous publication. Fiction, poetry, reviews, essays, graphics. Quality our only criterion. Submissions as well as subscriptions always welcome. Or come see us, first Weds of the mnth. 7pm at OCBC, 1151 Mass. Ave., Camb. MA 02138, or DOB office. \$8/yr for 6 issues. \$1.35 + 40c postage for sample copy. \$10/yr for libraries. Plain envelope. For further info (617) 259-0063.

POLITICALLY INCORRECT!!

Get your copy of Focus's "Politically Incorrect" issue available now at New Words and Glad Day or directly by mailing \$1.35 plus .25 postage to: Focus, OCBC, 1151 Mass Ave., Cambridge, MA 02133. Hurry! They won't last.

Subscribe to BIG MAMA RAG, a monthly feminist newsjournal, \$6 per year, \$10 outside the U.S., FREE to prisoners. Contact BMR, 1724 Gaylord, Denver, CO 80206.



TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).



My sign is Virgo. I enjoy dancing, social drinking (no drugs). I would like to write sophisticated older women (26-45). I'm in the Cal. Institute for Women. Roxanne MUNOZ, W15623, C.I. W Frontera, CA 91720.



GCN LESBIAN AND GAY PRISONER PROJECT

WE SEND FREE SUBS, BOOKS (WHEN AVAILABLE) AND RUN PENPAL ADS (THERE'S SOMETIMES A LONG WAITING LIST BECAUSE SPACE IS LIMITED!), AND LITTLE BY LITTLE WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT LESBIANS AND GAY MEN BEHIND BARS (WITH LETTERS OF PROTEST FOR MISTREATMENT OR DENIAL OF RIGHT TO RECEIVE GCN AND WITH ARTICLES ON THE POLITICS OF "CRIME" AND PUNISHMENT). WE REALLY NEED HELP DOING THESE THINGS. IF YOU CAN HELP WITH YOUR TIME OR A CONTRIBUTION, SEND TO LESBIAN AND GAY PRISONER PROJECT OR CALL MIKE AT GCN. THANKS!

I'm writing on behalf of another inmate here in state prison with me. I receive GCN and am so glad you once printed an ad for me and got me many friends. Thanks so much. I am writing to ask if you could help a friend. He's an elderly guy and has been in prison for 17 years and gets out in 4 and is so scared of his future since it's been so long since he was free. He's a gently guy and would be so happy to write just one steady penpal. I told him I was going to write you. His name is Robert E. PENNINGTON, #a-88986-B, PHU-2 Box 686, Soledad CA 93960.

I want to put together a book of stories concerning the unique/unusual sexual experiences of others. I would be interested in hearing from anyone with a story to tell. Names will be held in strict confidence. Please write: Tommy RAGAN, #349437-21B5, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.

Third world gay activist into rights movement and other progressive struggles and the avant garde arts. Am in lockup and surrounded by homophobia. Could really use some mail to lift my spirits! Emette MITCHELL, Folsom C-22649, Represa CA 95671.

Gay prisoner, sincere, intelligent, 25, 5'10", bl hair bl eyes. Lonely. I will be released from prison early this year. I wish to establish a lasting relationship. Kenneth Lobo, P.O. Box 747, #071518, Starke, FL 32091

I would like very much to hear from caring people. I'm in prison and would like very much to make some friends. Thank you. Write to: Tim Terrell #43238, Box 600 C.C.F., Canon City, CO 81212

Until last month no one here was aware I was a homosexual. There is this small kid on my tier who is an open gay and is about my own age. One day a lot of guys were harassing him about being gay. I am well-liked and respected by all the inmates who were there. I was so mad I walked up and said, "I am a gay, do you think that about me? Am I a piece of shit?" They were all shocked and didn't know what to say. I can't explain how good I feel about myself since that day. Anyway I was wondering if I could please have a subscription to your paper and if possible I would really like to get some mail from some other gays. On the outside I like to read novels and go to the movies. Sincerely, William DAVIS, Box 43, Norfolk MA 02056



Support gay prisoners.
Read and answer our
prisoner penpal ads

Young male prisoner, in desperate need of a friend, a gay friend, to write to. I need love most of all. I am in need of someone who understands and can share their love. I can do this so please write if you can. Jerry Boyer #17588, P.O. Box 14, Boise ID 83707

Shy gay male, incarcerated and recently divorced, seeks letters from candid, empathetic males. Ken GODWIN, B99376, Box 600, Tracy CA 95376.

Indeed, it would be an honor to exchange corresponding with liberal minded people. I have had the pleasure of reading articles on the gay liberation struggle in your paper, and thank you for your attention in this affair. Willie Rice, 108762, Rt 2 Box 37, Holman Sta. AL 36503.

Prisoners Seeking Friends

I'm an artist and would like to correspond with gays across the country and it is my wish that you would place a small ad for me in your newspaper of which I am an avid reader. Thanking you, Rodney BOWMAN, 158-981, Box 69, London OH 43140.

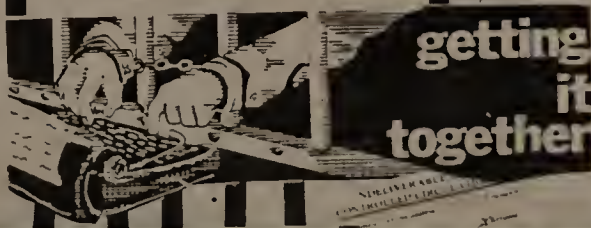
Serving time for theft. Would like to be able to write a sexy gay male or two to keep in touch. Roy STACKER, 3-CH 14-R-16, Box 128 Rt 2, Old Eddyville KY 42038.

Would like someone to write to and especially welcome a visit. I'm sincere and if given the chance will prove it. Tony SHERRIN, 106621, Box 97, McAlester OK 74501.

It would be deeply appreciated if you could help me hear from interested encouraging folks. Thank you in advance. Chester JOHNSON, U/24 #44467, Parchman MS 38738.

I'm in the position to take a lot of time to better myself but need someone to reach out and understand me as a person! I love poems, people, and laughter. If you need someone to share a smile with please write. Paul Stucker, 19072, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.

Looking for help finding work when I get out. I am ambitious and very able at most kinds of work. Please send stamp and paper if possible. I depend on my correspondents for writing material. Thank you. Kelly Strader, 31668 Box 128, Eddyville KY 42038.



I am a prisoner in Washington. I'm 5'11", weight 175, brown hair and hazel eyes. I will answer those who write me. Please send letters to me at the following address: John Gosser #266025-15C5, P.O. Box 520, Walla Walla, WA 99362 0520

Gay male 27 years old. Loves to have sex. Looking for a long friendship and a lover of my nature. Write to: Steven Goss 072816, P.O. Box 747, Starke, FL 32091

In prison for ADW. I have 30 months to go. I have no family, no mail. I'm alone and lonely. 45 years young, neat, clean, cultured. Ex-Maj. INF. Army P.O.W. Please Write. Stamps would be appreciated. Richard Kidd, Box B72191, Represa, CA 95671

Young gay man, 25 years old, lonely, in prison, in desperate need of letters and friends. Please write to: Michael Davern #14219, P.O. Box 607 c/o N.S.P., Carson City, NV 89701

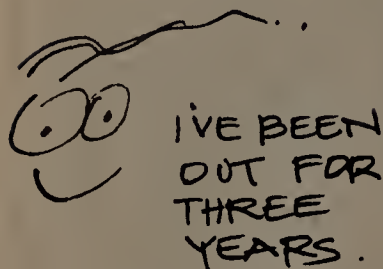
I'm 6'1", 160 lbs., with brown hair and the bluest of blue eyes. I keep in good shape by running, lifting weights and boxing at times. I take good care of myself and my body because 2 years ago I had terminal cancer, but through therapy I made it. I thank God for giving me another chance at life to better myself. I enjoy reading, sports, and love to collect old records and songs. I like songs from the 50's and 60's. I hope these few lines touch someone's heart and can help them understand the need of companionship. Dave Morgan 139-664, P.O. Box 45699, Lucasville, OH 45699

Prisoner with no caring family wishes to correspond with sincere and caring people of the gay community. Mike BROTHERS, Box 607, #16023, Carson City NV 89702.

Seeking compassionate considerate male who doesn't discriminate against me for my misfortune. Not a racist. Bobby CALDWELL, MSU 40035, Parchman MS 38738.



Calendar



Boston, MA — Front Runners Boston, gay and lesbian running group. Info: 825-0181.
Boston, MA — Chiltern Mt. Club. Regularly scheduled sports events and general info #s for outdoors events: general #s: John 275-1336 and 864-0823; volleyball Dee 266-2147; swimming 227-5363; basketball 236-1914

weekly events sunday

Boston, MA — Oasis, a coffeehouse with entertainment. Open hoot on first Sun. of the month. Bring talents and instruments. 355 Boylston St. (chapel entrance). Doors open at 7:30pm and close at 8pm. \$2.
Boston, MA — Gay and Lesbian Physicians of New England. Second Sundays. 2pm. Info: (617) 482-6874 or 247-5485.
Boston, MA — Musically Speaking. Women's programming music, ideas and announcements. Call Melanie at 494-8810 with events end comments. (WMBR, 88.1FM) 1-4pm.
Boston, MA — Boston's Other Voice. Weekly discussions of problems facing the lesbian/gay community. News, interviews, calendar, music. 10:30pm. WROR, 98.5FM
Orleans, MA — Shoreline, a gay social g. alternative to the bars on Cape Cod. See Sundays. Info: Box 1614, Orleans, MA 02
Orono, ME — Wilde-Stein Club. Social/support group for lesbians and gay men. Informal, friendly and open meetings. Peabody Lounge, 3rd fl, Memorial Union, UMO. 7pm.
Fremingham/Millford/Franklin, MA — Tri-county Assoc. Gay social club. All ages welcome. Info: 528-6544.

coming events

feb 9 tues

Boston, MA — Boston Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee meeting. 131 Clarendon (3rd fl), near Copley Sq. 7pm. Info: 262-4777 or 731-6737.
Selem, MA — North Shore Lesbian and Gay Alliance will present the film "I.F. Stone Weekly." 7:30pm. Screening room, Meier Bldg., Salem State Coll.

10 wed

Cambridge, MA — Women's Center weekly open discussions. Tonight: Rape. 46 Pleasant St. 8pm. All women are welcome.
Boston, MA — Oasis, a coffeehouse with entertainment. Tonight: Kathy Kolb, poetry and fiction. 355 Boylston St. (at Arlington). Doors open at 7:30pm and close at 8. Wed. eves. are for women only. \$3.
Boston, MA — Chiltern Mt. Club. Ski clinic for beginners. Info: Josh 232-6577 or John 864-1339.

11 thurs

Boston, MA — GAY COMMUNITY NEWS PROOFREADING. SEE THURSDAYS ABOVE.

Acton, MA — Central Middlesex Social Club meets at 7:30pm. Info: Call Joe at 263-9607. All are invited.

Concord, NH — NH Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men. First Sunday of the month. 1-5pm. Statewide political action group. Info: (603) 485-3144.

Northern VT/NH — League of Gays (LOGS), a gay men's support group, meets on the first and third Sundays for business meeting, socializing and a meal. Info: (802)633-4047 or 626-3618, or write: Box 703, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819.

Concord, NH — Concord Men's Group. Newsletter staff and Gay Prisoner Support Project. Sunday Brunch. 12:30-2:30. 67 Thorndike St. Info: Joe 224-6931

monday

Portsmouth, NH — Seacoast Gay Men. 7pm. Info: P.O.Box 1394, Portsmouth 03801.

Nashua, NH — Meeting of Nashua Area Gays. 8pm. Info: Paul 882-7746, or write: Nashua Area Gays, Box 3472, Nashua 03061.

Providence, RI — Lesbian/Gay Raps (MCC). 5 Junction St. 7:30pm. Info: 272-9247 or 751-3322.

tuesday

Boston, MA — The Cauldron Experimental Theater Collective meets every other Tuesday at 7:20 for scheduling, grant-writing and support. For more info call 542-8575 (and leave message if no one is there).

Waltham, MA — Parents and friends of Gays meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the Admin. Bldg. Conf. Room, Fernald State School, 200 Trapelo Rd. 7:15pm. Info: 846-7527 or write: Boston Parents FLAG, 76 Brook Hill Rd., Milton 02167.

Boston, MA — Boston Tea Party 2 1/2 meets at Dignity, 355 Boylston St. 7pm. To organize the response of the community to the loss of our liaison to the mayor's office. All interested parties welcome.

Bridgewater, MA — South Shore Lesbian and Gay Alliance meets every Tuesday. Info: 583-8447.

Cambridge, MA — Daughters of Billitis. Discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. (Harv. Sq.) 8pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge, MA — Friends Meeting at Cambridge. Draft counseling. Every Tuesday at 3:30 and 7:30pm. 5 Longfellow Park (near Harvard Sq.) Info: 876-6883.

Pittsfield, MA — Berkshire County Gay Coalition meets 2nd and 4th Tues. Info: (413) 442-7772.

Cambridge, MA — DOB topic raps. Tonight: "How do we begin? — starting a relationship." Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm.

Boston, MA — "Me and My Shadow," adaptation of John Barth's comic short story about mismatched Siamese twin brothers. Theater Works, Feb 11 thru Mar 6, Thurs, Fri, and Sat eves. Info: 739-7270.

Cambridge, MA — Amanda Peoples Security: women and men training themselves in self-defense. Training other groups (Lesbian and Gay Pride, Mobilization, etc.) Group School. 125 Harvard. Tues and Thurs eves, 6:30-8:30.

12 fri

Boston, MA — GAY COMMUNITY NEWS SENDS OUT THE PAPER EVERY WEEK AND CAN ALWAYS USE AN EXTRA HAND (ETC.) SEE FRIDAYS ABOVE FOR DETAILS.

Boston, MA — "Closer to Utopia," a lesbian adventure from a girls' boarding school by Marty Kingsbury, presented by the Cauldron Experimental Theater, 22 Randolph St. (near Dover T stop, off Harrison Ave. Fri (women only) and Sat eves, Feb. 12, 13, 19, 20, 26 and 27. 8pm. \$4. Info: 542-8575.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian and Gay Folk-dancing. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. Beginners very welcome. 7-9:30pm. Info: 661-7223.

Cambridge, MA — Women's Valentines Day Dance to benefit children's cooperative day care center. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass Ave (Harvard Sq.) \$3. 8-12pm. Refreshments and good times!

Brattleboro, VT — Southern Vermont Lesbian and Gay Men's Coalition meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the Common Ground Restaurant, 25 Elliot St. 7:30pm.

Uxbridge, MA — Support and Discussion Group for Lesbians. Eves, 7:30pm. Info: 278-5475.

Hartford, CT — Greater Hartford Lesbian and Gay Task Force meets at Hill Ctr., 350 Farmington Ave. 7pm (First Tues.) Info: 249-7691.

wednesday

Boston, MA — Walk-In VD screening and treatment for and by gay men. 6:30-8pm. Fenway Community Health Center, 16 Haviland St. (near Auditorium stop). 267-7573.

Hyannis, MA — Lesbian Support Group meets first Wed. of every month. 7:30pm. New members welcome. Orientation, social meetings. Warren Women's Center, 298 Main St. Info: 771-8739.

Boston, MA — Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA) meeting. 7:30-9:30pm. New members welcome. Help make the media more responsive to our needs. Info: 542-5679.

Cambridge, MA — Daughters of Billitis. 35+, women's discussion and social group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. Second Wed. and last Fri. of each month.

Lynn, MA — North Shore Gay AA weekly meeting. Lynn Community Health Center, 86 Lafayette Park. 7pm. Info: 599-5928.

Providence, RI — Transvestite/transsexual meetings. 8pm. Info: 426-4469.

Hampden County, MA — Social/Support Group for Lesbians. 8pm. Info: Debbie 532-5878 or Julie 532-4959.

thursday

BOSTON, MA — GAY COMMUNITY NEWS (THAT'S US FOLKS!). COME HELP PROOF-READ. BEGINS 6-ISH. REFRESHMENTS AND GOOD TIMES. 22 BROMFIELD ST. (NEAR PARK ST. T) INFO: 426-4469.

Boston, MA — The Lesbian and Gay Focus of PAM (People's Antiwar Mobilization) meets every Thursday from 7-9pm at the PAM office in the Freedom Center, 355 Boylston St.

Boston, MA — The Mass. Gay Political Caucus meets on the first and third Thursdays at 7:30pm. 755 Boylston St. Rm. 215. New members welcome. Info: 471-8404.

Northampton, MA — Pioneer Valley Gay People's Alliance is now forming. Meetings on first and third Thursdays at the Unitarian Society, 220 Main St. 7:30pm. Info: (413) 586-5979.

13 sat

Boston, MA — Amazon Productions presents a "Lesbian Culture Event," 7:30pm at the Arlington St. Church, 355 Boylston, featuring Kate Millett, Beverly Smith, Kara Rushin, Gwen Eliot, Mimi Jones, Alma Routsong, Patti Wilson and Maxine herself! Childcare available. Wheelchair assistance. Tickets \$7.50 et New Words and Women's Emporium.

Boston, MA — DOB Benefit Potluck at 156 Warren Ave. 7:30pm. \$3 donation. Bring food to share. Info: 661-3633 (Tues or Thurs, 8-9:30pm).

Boston, MA — Chiltern Mt. Club. Beginner downhill. Info: Josh 232-6577.

Boston, MA — Chiltern Mt. Club. Cross-country skiing and dinner. Info: Russ 369-2849. Also more cross country skiing. Info: Peter (617) 623-5368 or 495-2469

Boston, MA — Chiltern Mt. Club. Mt. Bond winter camping trip. Info: Roy (617) 247-1206 (h) or 864-5770 x2577 (w).

Henniker, NH — Valentines Dance sponsored by NH Lambda and NH Coalition of Lesbians and Gays. Pat's Peak. 8:30pm-1am. \$3. Info: (603) 895-2437.

14 sun

Cambridge, MA — PUMA (Prostitutes Union of Massachusetts) proudly announces its 6th Annual Hooker's Ball, at the Club, 823 Main St. (Central Sq.) 7pm. Great entertainment. DJ. Prizes. Proceeds to benefit Bail Fund for Prostitutes.

Boston, MA — Chiltern Mt. Club. Ski trip. Info: Josh 232-6577.

Worcester, MA — "Straight Talk About Gays", a free form radio show with news, announcements, music, poetry. In-depth interviews and raps. 8:15pm. WCUW. 91.3FM.

Boston, MA — Boston Area Lesbian and Gay History Project. 7:30pm. Info: 426-7351.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbians with children. Support group. 8-10pm. Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Cambridge, MA — Lesbian Liberation. A leaderless support group meeting every Thursday from 8-10pm. Newcomers welcome. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807.

Boston, MA — NU Lambda, Northeastern's social/support group for lesbians and gay men and their friends. meets every Thursday at 268 Ell Center. 7m.

New London, CT — Lesbian and Gay community at Connecticut College weekly meeting. Discussion, planning and outreach 9pm. Fanning Hall Rm 412. Info: 442-7458.

friday

Boston, MA — GAY COMMUNITY NEWS ALWAYS NEEDS HELP SENDING OUT THE PAPER ON FRIDAY EVENINGS. COME BY FOR A FEW HOURS ANY TIME AFTER 6 AND LEND A HAND. REFRESHMENTS AND GOOD TIMES! EVERY BODY WELL COME! 22 BROMFIELD ST. (NEAR PARK ST. T STOP). INFO: 426-4469. THANKS!

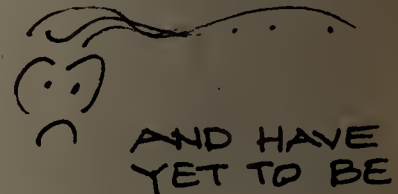
Hartford, CT — Your Turf, a weekly drop-in center for lesbian and gay teenagers. 7-9pm at the Hill Center, 350 Farmington Ave. (upstairs). Sponsored by the Coalition of Sexual Minorities.

Pittsfield, MA — Weekly meetings of Lesbians United. Info: Women's Services center, 499-2425.

Concord, NH — Concord's Men's Group meets Fridays at 7:30pm for coffee and discussion. 67 Thorndike St. Info: Joe 224-6931.

sat

Providence, RI — Rhode Island Gay and Lesbian Youth meets every Sat. from 1-5pm for youth 14-21 years of age. Info: MCC 272-9247 or Gay Help Line 751-3322 (eves).



Boston, MA — Chiltern Mt. Club. Valentines Day Skating. Info: Scott 776-4653 or Michael 492-1339.

Selem, MA — Valentines Party and Raffle Drawing presented by North Shore Lesbian and Gay Alliance. Daniel's House, 1 Daniels St. 7-10pm.

Hartford, CT — Greater Hartford Lesbian and Gay Task Force presents a Tea Dance, Valentines Day. Trinity Coll. Washington Room. 4-10pm.

17 wed

Northampton, MA — Ferron, feminist singer, songwriter and guitarist, in concert. Smith Coll., Davis Ballroom. 8pm. Info: Food for Thought Books (Amherst) or Womofyre Books (Northampton), or (413) 584-2637.



The deadline for Calendar Items is Tuesday at noon for the following issue.